

Senate Resolution No. 1917

BY: Senator MARTINEZ

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim
May 4-6, 2026, as Golf Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and commemorate those activities and industries which contribute significantly to the vitality, prosperity, and well-being of the people of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 4-6, 2026, as Golf Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Golf Day; and

WHEREAS, Golf is a sport enjoyed by millions of New Yorkers of all ages and backgrounds, providing recreational opportunities that promote physical activity, mental health, and social interaction across every region in New York; and

WHEREAS, New York is home to a rich and diverse golfing tradition, with 833 golf courses spanning the state, from the scenic Adirondacks to the rolling Hudson Valley and the shores of Long Island, offering opportunities for public recreation, championship play, and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, New York ranks fourth in the nation in golf participation with 1.6 million golfers, underscoring the sport's popularity and accessibility across the state; and

WHEREAS, The golf industry in New York is a \$12.9 billion economic engine, supporting 89,044 jobs, generating \$3.8 billion in labor income, and contributing more than \$1.03 billion in state and local tax revenue, reinforcing its vital role in the state's fiscal health and economic development; and

WHEREAS, New York golf drives significant tourism and destination travel, supporting \$1.7 billion in golf tourism annually, while major championships and industry events generate more than \$227 million in direct economic impact, positioning New York as a premier global golf destination; and

WHEREAS, New York's golf industry delivers broad public access, with 72% of courses open to the public, including 153 municipal facilities, ensuring that the game remains accessible and inclusive across urban and rural communities alike; and

WHEREAS, Golf facilities across New York hosted more than 14,000 charitable events in 2023, raising over \$267 million to support local causes including hospitals, schools, Veterans programs, and youth initiatives, demonstrating the industry's deep commitment to community

engagement; and

WHEREAS, New York boasts a storied golf heritage, from Saint Andrew's Golf Club in Hastings-on-Hudson, the oldest private golf club in the United States, to Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx, home to the nation's first public golf course; and

WHEREAS, New York has hosted more U.S. Opens than any other state and continues to lead on the national and global stage, including hosting the 2025 Ryder Cup at Bethpage Black, the 2026 U.S. Open at Shinnecock Hills, and future championships through 2036; and

WHEREAS, New York golf courses are leaders in environmental stewardship, collectively managing more than 103,000 acres of green space, providing critical ecosystem services including stormwater management, carbon sequestration, air and water filtration, and wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, New York golf courses are actively engaged in sustainability, nearly all courses report implementation of best management practices (BMPs) across water conservation, energy efficiency, and waste reduction, with courses implementing an average of 21 BMPs in these areas combined; and

WHEREAS, Nearly 98% of courses employ multiple water conservation practices, and collectively account for less than one-half of one percent of the state's total water use, demonstrating responsible and efficient resource management; and

WHEREAS, Golf facilities also contribute to sustainability through waste reduction, diverting 37% of operational waste from landfills; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Legislature has supported sustainable turfgrass management through the Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund, promoting environmental protection, research, and workforce development in the golf industry; and

WHEREAS, The Empire State Golf Alliance, formed in 2025 and comprised of 18 allied organizations representing PGA professionals, superintendents, club managers, owners, and industry leaders, is working collaboratively to advance the game's economic, environmental, and community impact across the state; and

WHEREAS, The Empire State Golf Alliance will convene in Albany, New York, for its inaugural New York State Golf Day on May 12, 2026, bringing together industry leaders and stakeholders to engage with policymakers and highlight the game's contributions to the State; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting and proper to recognize the many contributions of the game of golf and to designate a day in its honor, celebrating its enduring impact on the State of New York and its residents; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 4-6, 2026, as Golf Day

in the State of New York, in recognition of golf's invaluable contributions to our economy, environmental stewardship, and communities across the Empire State; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York.