

Senate Resolution No. 2083

**BY:** Senator BASKIN

**COMMEMORATING** the four-year Anniversary of the shooting at Tops Friendly Markets in Buffalo, New York, on May 14, 2022, and honoring the victims, survivors, families, and community at large in the wake of this devastating tragedy

**WHEREAS,** The very principles of American freedom and the safety and security of every American at home and abroad were challenged by the unspeakable atrocities committed in the East Side of Buffalo, during a sunny afternoon on Saturday, May 14, 2022, at a Tops grocery store located on historic Jefferson Ave; and

**WHEREAS,** As we mark the four-year anniversary of this senseless massacre, the Greater Buffalo community is conducting an array of events to honor those who lost their lives and to uplift the community, including the second annual 5/14 Day of Service & Remembrance, a city-wide day of service, action, and connection, honoring the lives lost in the May 14, 2022 tragedy; this initiative is planned by the Clementine Gold Group and sponsored by the John R. Oishei Foundation, Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, Nation Fuel, Community Access Services of WNY, Hazen, Gilbane, and Northwest Bank; the initiative will consist of a day of service throughout the City of Buffalo from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., followed by a community gathering at 3 p.m.; and

**WHEREAS,** Other events in honor of the anniversary of this profound tragedy include BUILD of Buffalo's A Solemn Time of Remembrance, a tribute to remember the lives lost in the Tops mass shooting; this event will feature a moving address by Justice Craig D. Hannah, along with heartfelt performances from Pastor Valerie Foye and Friends, Maestro Henri Star Muhammad, and Bro. Brian Freeman; this initiative is supported by Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, Jericho Road Community Health Center, and Buffalo Project Labs; and

**WHEREAS,** Additionally, the community will gather for a remembrance ceremony at the Tops supermarket; church bells will chime at 2:28 p.m., the moment the 123-second rampage began; and

**WHEREAS,** Furthermore, as we remember this horrific day, we honor the 10 innocent people who were killed: Roberta A. Drury, Geraldine Talley, Celestine Chaney, Katherine Massey, Pearl Young, Ruth Whitfield, Margus D. Morrison, Andre Mackneil, retired Buffalo Police Lieutenant Aaron Salter, and Heyward Patterson; and

**WHEREAS,** In addition, we honor the injured survivors: Jennifer Warrington, Zaire Goodman, and Christopher Braden, and many non-injured survivors throughout the community; and

**WHEREAS,** The May 14th Memorial Commission was established by the New York State Governor and former Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown to combat racism in all forms and work towards a future where hatred and bigotry

are a thing of the past; the Commission, led by Buffalo NAACP President Reverend Mark Blue, will have a leading role in uplifting the East Buffalo community; and

**WHEREAS,** For all New Yorkers, the images of this horrific domestic act of terrorism rekindles heartbreaking memories and causes us to pause and reflect on our daily lives; and

**WHEREAS,** The very heart and soul of America was once more shaken to its core; this tragedy stands as a reminder that such senseless acts of violence will not destroy the honorable values that America stands for; and

**WHEREAS,** The power of human compassion and the strength and spirit of the American people were revealed in Buffalo as we learned of the immediate and heroic outpouring of service and concern for the victims of this act of terrorism and in its aftermath; and

**WHEREAS,** This Legislative Body cannot express sufficient gratitude to those devoted first responders, including police officers, Erie County sheriff's deputies, and FBI agents, as well as paramedics and firefighters, who inspire us all by carrying out their sworn duties with great courage and bravery; and

**WHEREAS,** The combined and coordinated efforts of these individuals and their swift response are a testament to the spirit of unity and fellowship in the face of adversity which characterizes the best of America; and

**WHEREAS,** The people of the State of New York stand steadfast in their solidarity with Buffalo, New York, honoring all who were victimized by the city's worst mass shooting on Saturday, May 14, 2022, and stand resolute in our obligation to condemn racism, domestic terrorism, and all forms of hatred; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the four-year Anniversary of the mass shooting at Tops Friendly Markets on Jefferson Avenue, and to extend to the people of Buffalo the sincerest best wishes and heartfelt prayers of all New Yorkers; and be it further