Assembly Resolution No. 1156

BY: M. of A. Carroll R

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 21, 2026, as Library Assistants' Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body deems it fitting and proper to recognize and honor those community-based organizations and individuals who selflessly dedicate their time, resources, and thoughtful efforts toward enhancing the quality and character of life within their communities; 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 April 21, 2026, as Library Assistants' Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Library Week; and

WHEREAS, National Library Week is an annual event designated for the week of April 19-25, 2026, with the theme "Libraries Empower Communities"; and

WHEREAS, Library assistants are integral to the effective operation of libraries, providing essential support to librarians while performing circulation services, maintaining cataloging systems, processing and repairing materials, shelving collections, assisting patrons, and carrying out a wide range of critical operational tasks; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Library Assistants' Association (NYSLAA) is a statewide organization established by library assistants to promote and enhance the professional image and status of New York State library assistants, to further their professional growth; to provide a network for communication among members and within the profession on library and library assistant issues; and to cooperate with library organizations at the local, state, national, and international levels; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Library Assistants' Association 2026 Executive Council members are: Cheryl Marriott, President; LeAndre Peoples, Vice President; Heather Gad, Treasurer; Patricia Jackman, Recording Secretary; Cheryl Paine, Corresponding Secretary; Donna Hanna, Membership Secretary; and Wendy Freier, Conference Coordinator; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Library Assistants' Association has undertaken a variety of roles to improve and promote the association, including membership recognition, fundraising, and innovative programs; among its most distinctive initiatives is the Certificate of Achievement Program; and

WHEREAS, In 1992, the association conducted a membership survey that included questions regarding certification for library assistants, with 78 percent of respondents favoring a voluntary program; as the professional association of library assistants in New York State, the

association was deemed the appropriate body to administer such a program; and

WHEREAS, In 1993, a majority of library assistants attending the Annual Conference indicated support for developing a voluntary certification program; a draft program was presented to focus groups of library assistants and library administrators for input; a two-year pilot program was approved by the Executive Council and implemented in January 1995, and the first eight applicants received their certificates at the 1995 Annual Conference held in Buffalo, New York; and

WHEREAS, This program is designed to recognize the involvement and contributions of career-oriented library assistants and to acknowledge their support of libraries and the library profession; for the purposes of this program, a library assistant is defined as a library worker who does not hold a position as a librarian; and

WHEREAS, Library assistants support the mission of libraries by providing vital patron and support services, promote personal development through professional involvement, share concerns about issues facing the library profession and work collaboratively to address them; through their diligent service and professional commitment, library assistants demonstrate continued dedication to their work; and

WHEREAS, In light of their commitment, dedication, and successful efforts, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to extend its highest commendation to all library assistants throughout the State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 21, 2026, as Library Assistants' Day in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, and Cheryl Marriott, President of the New York State Library Assistants' Association.