Assembly Resolution No. 1194

BY: M. of A. McMahon

RECOGNIZING April 23, 2026, as World Book Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to observe days set aside for the betterment of residents of this great State, the Nation, and world as a whole; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to recognize April 23, 2026, as World Book Day in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, World Book Day is an annual event first recognized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1995; and

WHEREAS, UNESCO describes World Book Day as "one of the most beautiful inventions for sharing ideas and embodying an effective instrument to fight poverty and build sustainable peace"; and

WHEREAS, Reading books can strengthen cognitive processes and critical thinking, as well as enhance language, communication, writing, and problem-solving skills; reading also builds background knowledge, expands vocabulary, and can promote better memory and brain health; and

WHEREAS, Books are enjoyed in many different forms, including novels, novellas, graphic novels, picture books, short stories, art books, textbooks, poetry books, plays and dramas, and audiobooks; this variety allows individuals of all ages and skillsets to experience the joy of reading and to reap the myriad benefits books offer; and

WHEREAS, Graphic novels, for example, can inspire a passion for reading in children who find it challenging to read traditional novels, offer an accessible mode of storytelling to neurodivergent readers, and inspire artistic creativity and expression; and

WHEREAS, Among other benefits, graphic novel illustrations can improve the visual literacy of readers, honing their skills to analyze other illustrations, including advertisements, propaganda, political cartoons, and more, a skill which is becoming increasingly necessary in the age of digital and social media; and

WHEREAS, By depicting diverse characters, unique stories and experiences, and complex themes, graphic novels can foster an improved understanding of the world, different cultures and customs, and promote a greater appreciation for diversity in all aspects of life; and

WHEREAS, New York State is proud to be the home of many acclaimed authors, including Art Spiegelman, the author of the graphic novel "Maus," which became the first graphic novel to win a Pulitzer Prize on

April 9, 1992, for depicting the horrors of the Holocaust and intergenerational trauma through powerful and emotional illustrations; and

WHEREAS, Books are tools for personal and social development and offer different perspectives through which to view and interpret the world around us, expanding our innate senses of creativity, empathy, passion, curiosity, and joy; and

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon this Legislative Body to recognize days of observance that celebrate the importance of books, literature, and media, and the authors and artists who contribute to the cultural, social, and educational value of the citizens of this great State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to recognize April 23, 2026, as World Book Day in the State of New York.