

Assembly Resolution No. 1472

BY: M. of A. Simpson

COMMEMORATING the 125th Anniversary of Theodore Roosevelt's Night Ride to the Presidency

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend and recognize those organizations which strive to preserve and promote significant historical events, thereby ensuring that the rich heritage of our State and Nation is shared with present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in keeping with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of Theodore Roosevelt's Night Ride to the Presidency, and recognizing its Planning Committee, along with the many organizations collaborating in this effort, for their ongoing mission to preserve history through educational programming and public events; and

WHEREAS, The 125th Anniversary of Theodore Roosevelt's "Night Ride to the Presidency" seeks to honor and commemorate this pivotal moment in American history, when Roosevelt's journey from the Adirondacks to Buffalo marked the beginning of his presidency; and

WHEREAS, Through educational programs, community events, lectures, exhibitions, and cultural partnerships, the anniversary commemoration will preserve and share the legacy of Roosevelt's leadership, his deep connection to the Adirondacks, and the enduring impact of his presidency on our nation and the world; and

WHEREAS, In the course of American history, there are certain moments in our Nation's past which remain legendary for their unparalleled impact on our region, New York State and our country; and

WHEREAS, Theodore Roosevelt, a native New Yorker, born on October 27, 1858, in New York City, distinguished himself through public service as Assistant Secretary of the Navy, leader of the Rough Riders, Governor of New York, and Vice President of the United States under President William McKinley; and

WHEREAS, Roosevelt held a deep appreciation for the natural beauty of the Adirondack Mountains, and in September 1901, while vacationing with his family in the Adirondacks, he was drawn into one of the most pivotal moments in American history; and

WHEREAS, On September 6, 1901, President William McKinley was shot while attending the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, New York, and Vice President Roosevelt was notified of the assassination attempt while traveling in the region; and

WHEREAS, After initially traveling to Buffalo and being assured of the President's expected recovery, Roosevelt returned to the

Adirondacks; however, on the night of September 13, 1901, upon receiving urgent word that President McKinley's condition had worsened, he immediately began his journey back to Buffalo, an arduous overnight trip now known as the "Night Ride to the Presidency"; and

WHEREAS, During this journey, while in North Creek, New York, Roosevelt received official notification that President McKinley had died at 2:15 a.m. on September 14, 1901, and that he had thereby assumed the Presidency of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Later that same day, at 3:31 p.m., Theodore Roosevelt was sworn in as the 26th President of the United States at the Wilcox residence in Buffalo, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Night Ride to the Presidency remains a powerful symbol of leadership, duty, and the peaceful transition of power during a moment of national crisis; and

WHEREAS, The 125th Anniversary of this historic event provides a meaningful opportunity to reflect upon its significance and to recognize the many organizations whose dedication ensures that this important chapter in American history is preserved and commemorated through events held throughout the year; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of Theodore Roosevelt's Night Ride to the Presidency; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the 125th Anniversary Planning Committee.