Assembly Resolution No. 871

BY: M. of A. Smullen

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim January 25 - 31, 2026, as Medicolegal Death Investigation Professionals Week in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official weeks that are set aside to inform residents of this great State about the vital role and value of Medicolegal Death Investigation Professionals in providing pertinent information on the manner and cause of death of our loved ones; 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 January 25 - 31, 2026, as Medicolegal Death Investigation Professionals Week in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Medicolegal Death Investigators are the last responders of the emergency services system who have a crucial function to investigate deaths within their judication to determine the manner and cause of death, along with providing crucial statistics on current death trends; and

WHEREAS, Communities throughout New York State rely on Medicolegal Death Investigation Professionals as the cornerstone of medicolegal death investigations; and

WHEREAS, These professionals represent decedants, their families, and their communities and ensure that suspicious, violent, unattended, unexplained, and unexpected deaths that occur in their jurisdictions are investigated; and

WHEREAS, Medicolegal death investigations are essential to our public health and law enforcement systems as they give a voice to those who can no longer speak for themselves; and

WHEREAS, Medicolegal Death Investigation Professionals Week acknowledges and honors the difficult work done by these individuals to ensure critical, comprehensive, and compassionate investigations are made into the death of New York residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, The State of New York would like to thank all medicolegal professionals for providing answers to the decedent's family and the community, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that there be greater awareness of the vital role Medicolegal Death Investigation Professionals play in the lives of all citizens, and more must be done to increase this awareness at the local, State and National levels; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim January 25 - 31, 2026, as Medicolegal Death Investigation Professionals Week in the State of New York; 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.