Assembly Resolution No. 882

BY: M. of A. Cashman

COMMEMORATING October 11, 2026, as the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Valcour Island in the State of New York

WHEREAS, This year, 2026, marks the 250th Anniversary of the founding of the United States of America; this is an occasion of profound historical importance that commemorates the struggle for independence, self-government, and liberty; and

WHEREAS, New York State was the site of numerous pivotal events during the American Revolutionary War; serving as a strategic corridor, battleground, and meeting ground for ideas that shaped the emerging nation; and

WHEREAS, On October 11, 1776, the Battle of Valcour Island was fought on Lake Champlain near Valcour Island; this marked one of the first major naval engagements of the American Revolutionary War; and

WHEREAS, The American naval force, commanded by General Benedict Arnold, though ultimately forced to withdraw, courageously engaged a superior British fleet in defense of the northern frontier; and

WHEREAS, This engagement delayed the British advance from Canada into the Hudson Valley, preventing a coordinated assault that could have divided the colonies and altered the course of the war; and

WHEREAS, The strategic consequences of the Battle of Valcour Island contributed directly to the conditions that enabled American victory at Saratoga in 1777, a decisive turning point in the Revolutionary War; and

WHEREAS, The Battle of Valcour Island is an example of resilience, ingenuity, and strategic foresight in the face of overwhelming odds; it exemplifies the determination that defined the American struggle for independence; and

WHEREAS, Lake Champlain and the surrounding region has remained central to New York's military, economic, and cultural history, linking the state's colonial past to its present role as a gateway of commerce and cooperation; and

WHEREAS, The Battle of Valcour Island has been preserved in the public memory through the enduring efforts of patriotic organizations such as the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Sons of the American Revolution; their dedication to historical education and commemoration has ensured that the sacrifices made in defense of liberty are neither forgotten nor diminished; and

WHEREAS, The Battle of Valcour Island occupies a central place within the North Country's Triangle of History, a historically and geographically connected landscape which links Valcour Island, the

Batlle of Plattsburgh, and local historical sites, now preserved and commemorated through the Battlefield Memorial Gateway on the former Plattsburgh Air Force Base; and

WHEREAS, Commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the Battle of Valcour Island provides an opportunity to educate New Yorkers, honor those who fought in defense of liberty, and reflect upon the values that continue to guide the State and Nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the Battle of Valcour Island, honoring its historic role in securing American independence and its lasting importance to 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, the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, and such other entities as deemed appropriate to mark this historic anniversary.