

2011-J4557

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION celebrating the 89th Anniversary of Amelia Mary Earhart becoming the 16th woman to be issued a pilot's license by the International Aeronautical Federation, to be observed on May 15, 2012

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize anniversaries of significance which exemplify the history and development of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to celebrate the 89th Anniversary of Amelia Mary Earhart becoming the 16th woman to be issued a pilot's license by the International Aeronautical Federation, to be observed on May 15, 2012; and

WHEREAS, Amelia Mary Earhart, who was born on July 24, 1897, was a noted American aviation pioneer and author; and

WHEREAS, She was the first woman to receive the United States Distinguished Flying Cross, awarded for becoming the first aviatrix to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean; and

WHEREAS, This outstanding woman set numerous other records, wrote best-selling books about her flying experiences, and was instrumental in the formation of The Ninety-Nines, an organization for female pilots; and

WHEREAS, Amelia Earhart joined the faculty of the Purdue University aviation department in 1935, as a visiting faculty member to counsel women on careers and help inspire others with her love for aviation; and

WHEREAS, In Long Beach, on December 28, 1920, Amelia and her father visited an airfield where Frank Hawks gave her a ride that would forever change her life; she was quoted as saying "By the time I had got two or three hundred feet off the ground, I knew I had to fly"; after that 10-minute flight, she immediately became determined to learn to fly; and

WHEREAS, Working at a variety of jobs, including photographer, truck driver, and stenographer at the local telephone company, Amelia Earhart managed to save \$1,000 for flying lessons; and

WHEREAS, Rather than simply endorsing the products, Amelia Earhart actively became involved in the promotions, especially in women's fash-

ions; at the age of 34, on the morning of May 20, 1932, she set off from Harbour Grace, Newfoundland with the latest copy of a local newspaper, which was intended to confirm the date of the flight; and

WHEREAS, She intended to fly to Paris in her single engine Lockheed Vega 5B to emulate Charles Lindbergh's solo flight; after a flight lasting 14 hours, 56 minutes during which she contended with strong northerly winds, icy conditions and mechanical problems, Amelia Earhart landed in a pasture at Culmore, north of Derry, Northern Ireland; and

WHEREAS, The landing was witnessed by Cecil King and T. Sawyer; when a farm hand asked her if she had flown far, she replied, from America; today, the site is the home of a small museum, the Amelia Earhart Centre; and

WHEREAS, As the first woman to fly solo non-stop across the Atlantic, Amelia Earhart received the Distinguished Flying Cross from Congress, the Cross of Knight of the Legion of Honor from the French Government and the Gold Medal of the National Geographic Society from President Herbert Hoover; and

WHEREAS, As her fame grew, she developed friendships with many people in high offices, most notably Eleanor Roosevelt, the First Lady from 1933-1945, who shared many of Earhart's interests and passions, especially women's causes; Amelia Earhart was a member of the National Woman's Party, and an early supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment; and

WHEREAS, Amelia Earhart disappeared, on July 2, 1937, at the age of 39, over the Pacific Ocean, en route to Howland Island; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commemorate the anniversary of those historical events that occurred and serve as lasting reminders of our rich and unique past; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to celebrate the 89th Anniversary of Amelia Mary Earhart becoming the 16th woman to be issued a pilot's license by the International Aeronautical Federation, to be observed on May 15, 2012; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York.