

2011-K559

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 2011 as Older Americans Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, Older Americans bring a wealth of experience, financial, social and intellectual capital, making them a valuable asset to the fabric of community life; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 2011 as Older Americans Month in the State of New York, in recognition of the contributions older New Yorkers have made, and continue to make, on behalf of their communities; and

WHEREAS, In conjunction with Older Americans Month, the New York State Legislature and the New York State Office for the Aging will host the New York State Senior Citizens' Day Celebration to be held in the Blue Room in the Capitol; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious event will recognize two seniors nominated from each county who are considered "Outstanding Older New Yorkers"; and

WHEREAS, The recipient of the 2011 Senior of the Year Award is Ardie Bennett of Ithaca, New York; and

WHEREAS, Diane Adele Pomeroy from Spring Valley, New York, is the recipient of the 2011 Outstanding Contribution by a Senior Citizen Award; and

WHEREAS, These two remarkable senior citizens were selected by the New York State Legislature for their individual achievements and exceptional contributions to their communities; and

WHEREAS, For nearly 50 years, the month of May has, by Presidential Proclamation, been recognized, first as Senior Citizens Month and since 1980, as Older Americans Month, to honor and celebrate the merits and achievements of our nation's seniors; and

WHEREAS, Recognizing and celebrating the diversity and vitality of today's Older Americans, the theme for Older Americans Month 2011 is "Connect to the Community"; and

WHEREAS, The five million baby boomers living in New York who are approaching retirement age, make up 35 percent of the state's population; they are helping to redefine aging; and

WHEREAS, Older New Yorkers are remaining civically engaged in their communities, contributing greatly to the social and economic well-being of our State, through their volunteer service and economic contributions; and

WHEREAS, Last year over 683,000 older New Yorkers provided over 47.8 million hours of service that are valued at over \$1.3 billion; and

WHEREAS, Older New Yorkers age 60 and older are a major force in the economy - last year generating \$120 billion in aggregate income - from savings, public and private pensions and social security, that are spent on goods and services that help them live independently and spent on their children and grandchildren, contributing greatly to the financial well-being of their local communities and the State; and

WHEREAS, As more New Yorkers live longer and healthier lives, the number of older New Yorkers continues to increase at a rapid pace, creating challenges and opportunities to assist older New Yorkers so that they can continue living independently; and

WHEREAS, Older New Yorkers over age 60 now comprise 3.7 million of the State's population which totals 19 million individuals, and those 85 and over are expected to grow 51 percent, ranking the State third in the nation in the number of older adults; and

WHEREAS, Overall the State's population is projected to be over 23 percent older people, compared to the national projection of 22 percent in 2020; and

WHEREAS, As the face of our State and nation changes, so too does our senior population; in New York State, older adults will soon outnumber children; as more New Yorkers reach their later years, changing demographics touch all generations and remind us that older citizens need the assistance of their communities, including understanding and support from their family and friends; and

WHEREAS, As New York is rich in ethnic, racial and spiritual, cultural and life-style diversity, over the last decade, the minority population age 60 and over grew by 43 percent, compared to 8 percent for the non-minority population; this segment of the aging cohort is expected to increase between 2010 and 2020 by 51 percent, as the last of the Baby Boomers enter the 60 and over age group; and

WHEREAS, The celebration of Older Americans Month serves as a reminder of the challenges, opportunities and rewards presented by an aging popu-

lation and that we must work to ensure that older New Yorkers are able to continue to enjoy their longevity and that they are able to do so with dignity; and

WHEREAS, Older Americans Month is an opportunity to celebrate the changing face of aging and to pay tribute to our senior citizens to whom a debt of gratitude is owed for all they have done and for all they do, sharing their wisdom and experience, strengthening and enriching our State, our nation and our world; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 2011 as Older Americans Month in the State of New York; 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.