

2015-J480

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 90th Anniversary of the Watervliet Elks Lodge No. 1500

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals who are devoted to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, It is also the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to fraternal organizations of high purpose and worthy accomplishment whose endeavors have faithfully served the welfare of the citizens of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, It is the tradition of this State and this Nation to pay tribute to those institutions and individuals who have contributed to the ethical and spiritual values of their communities; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of the Watervliet Elks Lodge No. 1500; and

WHEREAS, The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (BPOE) is one of the oldest and largest fraternal organizations in the United States; established in 1928, the Elks National Foundation is the charitable arm of the BPOE; over the years, the Foundation has contributed millions toward Elks' charitable projects nationwide; and

WHEREAS, The Elk organization was founded in New York City on February 16, 1868, under the name "Jolly Corks" by 15 actors, entertainers, and others associated with the theater; in ensuing years, membership expanded to other professions; and

WHEREAS, Its mission is to inculcate the principles of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity; to recognize a belief in God; to

promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its Members; to quicken the spirit of American patriotism; to cultivate good fellowship; to perpetuate itself as a fraternal organization, and to provide for its government, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America will serve the people and communities through benevolent programs, demonstrating that Elks Care and Elks Share; and WHEREAS, The Order spends a significant amount every year for benevolent, educational and patriotic community-minded programs in such fields as benefiting physically handicapped children, sponsoring Elks National Foundation scholarships, scouting, athletic teams, veterans' works, a national "Hoop Shoot" free-throw contest involving more than three million children, physical and occupational therapy programs and patriotic programs; and

WHEREAS, The youth of our country have always been important to the Order; for this reason the Elks Drug Awareness Education Program was launched to warn primary grade students and their parents of the dangers in drug use; and

WHEREAS, In addition, every lodge observes June 14th annually as Flag Day, a tradition which the Elks began in 1907, and was later adopted by the Congress as an official observance; and

WHEREAS, Organizations of singular distinction such as Watervliet Elks Lodge No. 1500, of Watervliet, New York, merit the grateful praise of the community and of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body that when organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of the Watervliet Elks Lodge No. 1500; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be tran-

mitted to the Watervliet Elks Lodge No. 1500.