

2015-J1916

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 200th Anniversary of the birth of Elizabeth Cady Stanton

WHEREAS, November 12, 2015, marks the Bicentennial of the birth of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, one of the founders and leading voices of the women's rights movement; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Cady Stanton was born on November 12, 1815 in Johnstown, New York, to Daniel Cady and Margaret Livingston Cady; her father was a prominent attorney who also served as a State Legislator, Congressman and Judge; and

WHEREAS, She was educated at the Johnstown Academy and at the Troy Female Seminary, which had been established by Emma Willard; and

WHEREAS, In 1840, she married Henry Stanton, a reformer and abolitionist, and together they had seven children; and

WHEREAS, Through her personal experiences, and through observation of her father's law practice, she became aware of the inequities and injustices faced by women, leading to her lifelong efforts for women's rights; and

WHEREAS, She circulated petitions and advocated in New York State for passage of the Married Woman's Property Bill, which was signed into law in 1848; and

WHEREAS, Her family moved to Seneca Falls, New York, in 1847; working with four other women, including Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton organized the first Women's Rights Convention, which was held in Seneca Falls in July 1848; she is credited with being one of the primary authors of the Convention's Declaration of Sentiments, which was modeled after the Declaration of Independence, and is considered to be a founding document of the woman's suffrage movement; and

WHEREAS, In 1851, Elizabeth Cady Stanton met Susan B. Anthony, which

began a long friendship and partnership in the fight for women's equality; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Cady Stanton participated in the abolition movement and the temperance movement, but was most active in, and best known for, her efforts on behalf of a wide range of women's rights, especially the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, Although she died on October 25, 1902, Elizabeth Cady Stanton's lifelong efforts laid the groundwork for the ratification in 1920 of the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which gave women the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, Several historical markers have been erected in her hometown of Johnstown to honor her efforts and legacy; local residents have also established the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Consortium in 2006, and the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Hometown Association in 2008; and

WHEREAS, The City of Johnstown and the County of Fulton are very proud of the accomplishments and legacy of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and several local organizations are holding special events in 2015 in honor of the 200th Anniversary of her birth; and

WHEREAS, This Bicentennial is also being observed and celebrated by the National Park Service, which operates the Women's Rights National Historical Park in Seneca Falls, and provides tours of the house in which she lived from 1847 to 1862; and

WHEREAS, In 1973, she was part of the first group of women inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame; her biographical entry notes that she is "Widely credited as one of the founding geniuses of the women's rights movement"; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of her contributions and achievements, the New York State Legislature passed a law in 2006 which designated November 12th to be Elizabeth Cady Stanton Day; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the birth of Elizabeth Cady Stanton

of Johnstown, New York, and to acknowledge and celebrate her dedication and accomplishments in the cause of women's rights; and be it further RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Women's Consortium, the Elizabeth Cady Stanton Hometown Association, and the City of Johnstown.