

## 2015-J4944

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 2016, as Older Americans Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, The more than three million residents of New York State 60 years of age and older bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the increasingly active roles they play in today's society; their past contributions and future participation are a vital part of, and valuable asset to, the fabric of community life and activity; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 2016, as Older Americans Month in the State of New York, in recognition of the contributions older Americans have made, and continue to make, on behalf of their communities, State, and Nation; and

WHEREAS, Older Americans Month is an annual event dating back to 1963, when President John F. Kennedy designated May as Senior Citizens Month; it was later renamed Older Americans Month, to honor and celebrate the merits and achievements of our Nation's seniors; and

WHEREAS, When Older Americans Month was established more than 50 years ago, only 17 million living Americans had reached their 65th birthdays, and approximately a third lived in poverty with few programs to meet their needs; today, that number has doubled and older Americans now comprise 13 percent of the Nation's population; and

WHEREAS, Older Americans Month is a celebration of our past, our present and our future; recognizing and celebrating the diversity and vitality of today's older Americans, the theme for Older Americans Month 2016 is Blaze a Trail; and

WHEREAS, As 77 million baby boomers approach retirement age, they are helping to redefine aging in America; 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 Americans 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, The celebration of Older Americans Month serves as a reminder of the challenges and rewards the future holds 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 2016, 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.