

2015-J6242

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the Kinderhook Elks Lodge No. 2530 for its many years of dedicated service to its community

WHEREAS, It is the custom 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, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the Kinderhook Elks Lodge No. 2530 for its many years of dedicated service to its community; 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 teach 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 perpet-

uate 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, Holding true to the mission of the Elks, the Kinderhook Elks Lodge No. 2530 strives to fulfill the needs of its community and veterans; and

WHEREAS, For many years, Kinderhook Elks Lodge No. 2530 has participated in the Marion Stegman program delivering food and gifts during the holidays to needy families throughout northern Columbia county; this vital organization also holds a community dinner at St. Luke's Church in Valatie, New York, providing a free meal for everyone in the community; and

WHEREAS, In addition, the fun-loving members of the Kinderhook Elks Lodge No. 2530 hold an annual prom for people with special needs, sponsor a hoop shoot for local school children where they can win college scholarships, and host an Easter Celebration in Kinderhook Square where children can take pictures with the Easter bunny, hunt for eggs, and eat delicious treats; and

WHEREAS, Our Nation's veterans deserve to be recognized, commended and thanked by the people of the State of New York for their service and for their dedication to their communities, their State and their Nation; and

WHEREAS, The Kinderhook Elks Lodge No. 2530 truly honors our veterans by letting them know that they are admired and respected; the Lodge hosts birthday parties for the disabled veterans at the VA Stratton Albany Hospital, complete with games, music, food and gifts; organizes two fishing events for the disabled veterans, offers a complimentary dinner for all veterans on Veterans Day; and donates both gifts and

funds to the Blue Star Mothers of Hudson, New York, who then ship them to our men and women serving overseas; and

WHEREAS, Organizations of singular distinction such as Kinderhook Elks

Lodge No. 2530 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 commend the Kinderhook Elks Lodge No. 2530 for its many years of dedicated service to its community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Kinderhook Elks Lodge No. 2530.