

2013-K642

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim July 1, 2013, as the "Spirit of 1776" Wagon Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, New York State is the cradle for the women's rights movement in the United States and it is critically important to celebrate women's history as well as support programs that build economic development through cultural and heritage tourism, including the development of a New York State Women's Heritage Trail; and

WHEREAS, A Governor's Capitol women's exhibit in 2012 pointed out how New York's women led the way from Seneca Falls to the Supreme Court, and the exhibit showcased a horse-drawn campaign wagon called the "Spirit of 1776" that was used in parades and special events on Long Island and New York City; and

WHEREAS, This "Spirit of 1776" suffrage campaign wagon is held in the collection of the New York State Museum, and it is a prime historical artifact symbolizing the significance of New York women's participation in the suffrage movement over a 72-year period starting in 1848 in Seneca Falls, New York, and ending with the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution in 1920; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such interest in our history, and in fitting accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize the "Spirit of 1776" wagon as it celebrates the centennial of its first journey for freedom on July 1, 1913, when the wagon left the state headquarters of the New York State Woman Suffrage Association in Manhattan and headed to Long Island for a month of grass-roots organizing for the vote, in addition to later appearances in New York City suffrage parades; and

WHEREAS, Celebration of this "Spirit of 1776" wagon Centennial is in

alignment with the Legislative Women's Caucus of New York State's mission to educate citizens of New York State by celebrating our rich cultural heritage and advancing the centennial of New York State's women winning the vote in 1917, followed by the national suffrage centennial in 2020; and

WHEREAS, Celebration of the "Spirit of 1776" wagon celebration is in alignment with the State of New York's "Path Through History" program that includes women's rights as one of the 13 identified themes building on New York's already robust heritage tourism attractions; and

WHEREAS, The mission of Votes For Women 2020 is to celebrate, educate, inspire, and promote the history of women's right to vote with a focus on the past and an eye to the future with the goals of preserving and promoting New York State history sites, including but not limited to the Susan B. Anthony House, Matilda Joslyn Gage Home, Harriet Tubman Home, and others; creating a New York State Women's Heritage Trail with the "Spirit of 1776" wagon inaugurating that trail; and hosting national celebrations of the 100th Anniversary of the women's right to vote in 2020, beginning in 2017 with the Centennial of women gaining the right to vote in New York State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim July 1, 2013, as the "Spirit of 1776" Wagon Day 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.