

2013-K587

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the Peekskill Juneteenth Parade and Celebration on June 15, 2013

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend events which symbolize the historical, social and cultural development of this great State and embody the spirit of the principles upon which this Nation was founded; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the Peekskill Juneteenth Parade and Celebration, to be held on Saturday, June 15, 2013, along the riverfront in Peekskill, New York; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth is the oldest-known celebration commemorating the final implementation of the Emancipation Proclamation; and

WHEREAS, This celebration began on June 19, 1865, the date Union soldiers under the command of Major General George Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, with the news that the Civil War had ended and that all slaves were free; and

WHEREAS, Many of the newly-freed slaves stayed in their locations to learn about the new employer/employee relationship between themselves and their former masters, while others chose to reach family members in other states, and still others chose to move to the Northern states; and

WHEREAS, The celebration of Juneteenth allowed freed slaves and their descendants to recount the memories of that great day in 1865 when freedom was proclaimed, and also served as a release from the pressures of settling into new territories; and

WHEREAS, The Peekskill Juneteenth Parade will kick-off at 2:00 p.m. with the Former Governor David A. Paterson as the Grand Marshall and the festivities will continue into the evening with live music, dancing,

choirs, food, vendors, and much more; and

WHEREAS, While Juneteenth is a time for celebration, it is also a time for reflection, education and self-improvement; participants often listen to elders recount the past, attend prayer services, and learn from education speakers; and

WHEREAS, Events which celebrate ethnic diversity contribute to fulfilling our Nation's great legacy of equality and opportunity for all, which strengthens the fabric of the communities within New York State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the Peekskill Juneteenth Parade and Celebration on June 15, 2013, fully confident that such procedure mirrors our shared commitment to preserve and yet effect that patrimony of freedom which is our American heritage; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Peekskill Juneteenth Heritage Committee, and the Peekskill Youth Bureau.