

2013-J3680

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 30, 2014, as William H. Seward Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is with noble admiration and pride that this Legislative Body joyfully pays just recognition to the life and work of William H. Seward, one of its great leaders; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 30, 2014, as William H. Seward Day in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Born in Florida, New York, on May 16, 1801, William H. Seward was the son of Mary Jennings and Samuel Sweezy Seward; he attended Farmers' Hall Academy before graduating at the top of his class from Union College in 1820; and

WHEREAS, After graduation, William H. Seward became the junior partner of Judge Elijah Miller, and on October 20, 1824, married the Judge's daughter, Frances; the couple then moved into the Miller family home in Auburn, New York; and

WHEREAS, William H. Seward served as a Senator in the New York State Legislature from 1830-1834, prior to being elected the 12th Governor of New York State in 1839, serving until 1842; and

WHEREAS, William H. Seward was then elected to the United States Senate where he represented New York State from 1849-1861, becoming one of the nation's most ardent opponents of slavery; and

WHEREAS, In 1861, President Abraham Lincoln named William H. Seward Secretary of State; he served in this capacity through the administrations of Presidents Lincoln and Andrew Johnson, helping to guide the nation through the Civil War and surviving an assassination attempt the very night President Lincoln was murdered; and

WHEREAS, William H. Seward's foreign policy isolating the Confederacy from foreign allies was and continues to be highly praised; and

WHEREAS, As Secretary of State, William H. Seward played an integral role in negotiating the Lyons-Seward Treaty of 1862, which set forth strong measures by which the United States and Great Britain agreed to enforce an end to the Atlantic slave trade; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Senator Seward negotiated the purchase of the territory of Alaska from Russia in 1867; the territory encompassed 586,412 miles, which he was able to purchase for approximately two cents per acre, and remains one of the most resource-rich and environmentally pristine areas in the world; and

WHEREAS, William H. Seward III willed the William H. Seward House in Auburn, New York, to the Fred L. Emerson Foundation to be operated as a public museum in 1951; and

WHEREAS, The William H. Seward House became a museum chartered by New York State in 2008, and continues to preserve and honor William H. Seward's collection and legacy; and

WHEREAS, The William H. Seward House museum's collection includes many priceless artifacts, including "Portage Falls on Genesee," an oil-painting done by famed artist Thomas Cole in 1839, and given to then-Governor Seward as a gift; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 30, 2014, as William H. Seward 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.