

2017-J3599

Senate Resolution No. 3599

BY: Senator KENNEDY

COMMEMORATING the 40th Annual Polish-American Arts Festival in Cheektowaga, New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body, in keeping with its time-honored traditions, to recognize and pay tribute to those events which foster ethnic pride and enhance the profile of cultural diversity which strengthens the fabric of the communities of New York State; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 40th Annual Polish-American Arts Festival in Cheektowaga, New York; and

WHEREAS, In 1978, with nearly half of the Town of Cheektowaga's 100,000 residents claiming some degree of Polish decent, then New York Governor Hugh Carey suggested that the new outdoor amphitheater would be a great place for a Polish-American Festival; and

WHEREAS, Subsequently, the Chairman of the Town's Park and Recreation Committee, Frank Swiatek, transformed Cheektowaga's annual concert of Polish-American music into a three-day festival featuring traditional folk art, crafts, foods, dance, and music; and

WHEREAS, In 1986, the Cheektowaga Polish-American Arts Festival and the Town of Cheektowaga were the recipients of the Dorothy Mullen

National Arts and Humanities Award, which is given annually in recognition of the most innovative and effective arts and humanities programs across the Nation; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, in 2007, the Cheektowaga Polish-American Festival Committee was honored by the Am-Pol Eagle newspaper in the category of Community Organizations for its dedicated efforts in planning and organizing New York State's premier ethnic festival; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the years, the Cheektowaga Polish-American Festival has become more diversified, adding premiere musical and dance entertainment; in addition, the Pulaski Day parade was transferred from Buffalo, New York, to Cheektowaga, and became a Sunday feature of the Festival; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous leadership of Cheektowaga Town Supervisor, Diane Benczkowski, thousands of enthusiastic guests arrive from not only Western New York, but the entire State, as well as Canada, to enjoy the Annual Polish-American Arts Festival and the Pulaski Day Parade; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body salutes all of the individuals, past and present, who have given their time to this worthy event, noting their commitment to enhance and improve the quality of life in their community; and

WHEREAS, The treasured values of family unity and wholesome entertainment for all ages are reflected in the Annual Polish-American Arts Festival, an event which helps to foster community spirit and

cooperation and preserves the beliefs, ideals and values upon which this great State and Nation were founded; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 40th Annual Polish-American Arts Festival in Cheektowaga, New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Diane Benczkowski, Cheektowaga Town Supervisor.