

## 2017-J4290

Senate Resolution No. 4290

BY: Senator YOUNG

CONGRATULATING Fredonia Grange No. 1 upon the occasion of its 150th Anniversary

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize those organizations and businesses of this great Empire State who make significant contributions to their communities; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Fredonia Grange No. 1 upon the occasion of its 150th Anniversary; and

WHEREAS, Oliver Hudson Kelley is considered the "Father of the Grange" Movement, with its origins dating back to his idea that a fraternal organization, composed of farmers from all sections of the United States, would help heal the scars caused by the Civil War, as well as improve both the economic and social position of the farm population; and

WHEREAS, Oliver Hudson Kelley worked closely with friends in government service and enlisted their support; in the office of William Saunders in Washington D.C., on December 4, 1867, the National Grange was formally organized; and

WHEREAS, Oliver Hudson Kelley would resign his position in the Department of Agriculture and left Washington, D.C. on April 3, 1868, to establish the new organization throughout rural districts; on April 16, 1868, he founded Fredonia Grange No. 1; before the end of 1872, more than one thousand Granges were located and organized in more than half of the states of the Union; and

WHEREAS, Fredonia Grange No. 1 was the first community grange established in the world during the mid-19th Century, with it being the home of the first dues-paying grange; the United States first grange hall was built in Fredonia during the late 1860s, and established on April 16, 1868; the original building still stands to do this day on Main Street; and

WHEREAS, Fredonia Grange No. 1 has demonstrated an outstanding dedication to its community through its devotion to local citizens and providing an organization to help farmers with any issues they may be facing; and

WHEREAS, Observing that special recognition should be given to those organizations and businesses that work assiduously for the betterment of their communities and should be acknowledged publicly for the good works they do for the families and neighbors of the area; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Fredonia Grange No. 1 upon the occasion of its 150th Anniversary; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Fredonia Grange No. 1.