



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Citation

**Whereas**, the Empire State is home to many respected religious institutions and organizations that serve as cornerstones of their communities and enrich the spiritual lives of their members; the citizens of New York welcome this opportunity to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Joseph Smith's First Vision that resulted in the establishment of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; and

**Whereas**, in April of 1820, Joseph Smith, a young man from a local farming family, experienced a holy vision in a grove near the small Village of Palmyra in Western New York; this area was renowned for enthusiastic religious camps, meetings, and revivals and this strong religious fervor was known as the Second Great Awakening; Smith's translation of sacred scripture led to the publication of the Book of Mormon in 1830 and the birth of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; and

**Whereas**, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is based upon a renewal of Christian values and principles as conveyed in the gospels and this longstanding tradition of guidance continues to serve as a source of inspiration for a church where fellowship, respect, and service to others are held in the highest regard; the firm foundation and extraordinary longevity of this church demonstrate a devoted unity of faith reflected in the prayers, charitable endeavors, and good works of Latter-day Saint congregations; and

**Whereas**, New York State is home to over 82,000 members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, active in 143 congregations; the Empire State is also privileged to be home to two temples, one in Palmyra on the site of the birthplace of this religion, and the new Manhattan Temple which opened in 2004, becoming the 119<sup>th</sup> temple in the world and the first in New York City; and

**Whereas**, the milestone bicentennial anniversary of the First Vision will prompt celebrations throughout this historic year, including many pilgrimages to the State of New York and tours across the country, following the path of the founding fathers; the respected elders, stewards, and members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints can be deservedly proud as they gather in joyful commemoration of two centuries of history, a bright future for this house of worship, and their ongoing commitment to giving of one's self for the betterment of all humankind;

**Now, Therefore**, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby confer this Special Citation in honor of

### THE 200<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST VISION OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

in respectful acknowledgment of this faith tradition's glorious past and the religious inspiration that will shape its future.



Governor

November 20, 2020