

# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Citation

**Whereas**, the citizens of New York State are pleased to join in celebrating significant milestones in the history of beloved landmarks that represent an important chapter in our proud annals; the General Grant National Memorial, also known as Grant's Tomb, is a monument with a meaningful past, present, and future as it is once again as vibrant and alive today as it was on the day of its first dedication, a century and a quarter ago; and

**Whereas**, Hiram Ulysses Grant was born in Ohio on April 27, 1822 to Jesse and Hannah Grant; in 1839, his father procured an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point for his son; through an error, his name was registered as Ulysses S. Grant, which became permanent; his first commission took him to St. Louis, where he met, and later married, Julia Boggs Dent; in 1846 - 1847, Lieutenant Grant served under Generals Zachary Taylor and Winfield Scott in the Mexican-American War and displayed great bravery, but resigned from the Army in 1854 to earn a living while raising his family; in 1861, he returned to active duty for the Civil War and was soon a Brigadier General, leading his army to the first major Union victory in 1862; in 1864, he was named the Commander of all U. S. Armies by President Abraham Lincoln; General Grant accepted General Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House in 1865; and

**Whereas**, Ulysses S. Grant was elected the 18<sup>th</sup> President of the United States in 1869 and re-elected in 1873; his campaign slogan was "Let us have peace," and he worked diligently to implement Congressional Reconstruction and to remove the vestiges of slavery, securing ratification of the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution; he negotiated a peace policy with Native Americans, established the nation's first national park, settled international disputes, and instituted civil service reform; leaving the White House, he and Julia went on a world tour, then settled in New York City, where he suffered significant financial loss upon the collapse of the firm in which he and his family were invested; President Grant then turned to writing his memoirs of the Civil War, finishing just before he died of throat cancer near the Adirondacks' Mount McGregor, in July of 1885, at just 63; and

**Whereas**, as a Civil War hero, Ulysses S. Grant was one of the most famous and sought-after Americans in the world; his stated wish was to be buried with his beloved wife by his side; upon his death, New York City Mayor William Grace immediately offered a NYC park, and the Grant family chose Riverside, for its proximity to Mrs. Grant's home; a temporary vault was constructed until such time as a suitable monument could be erected, and the Grant Monument Association was formed; on August 8, 1885, the funeral cortège was seven miles long, as the coffin was brought to its first resting place near 122<sup>nd</sup> Street, witnessed by 1.5 million people who lined the route; and

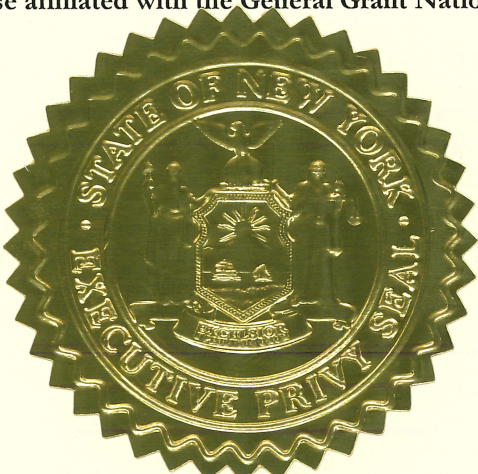
**Whereas**, the GMA held competitions in 1888 and 1890 to find a fitting architectural design and they ultimately selected an eclectic neoclassical style design by John Hemenway Duncan based on the Greek Mausoleum at Halicarnassus, a monumental tomb of military character; ground was broken on April 27, 1891, the cornerstone was laid on April 27, 1892, and the dedication ceremony took place on April 27, 1897, Grant's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday; Grant's Tomb is the largest mausoleum in the Western Hemisphere; it is comprised of Doric columns on the lower level and a circular cupola above, standing 150 ft. above ground level and 280 ft. above the banks of the Hudson River; the remains of Ulysses and Julia Grant are encased in red granite sarcophagi, each 8.5 tons, with Grant's epitaph reading "Let us have peace"; and

**Whereas**, over the decades, the tomb experienced good fortune and bad; some beautiful and historic additions include the busts of Grant's five greatest lieutenants sculpted during the WPA years; new windows, mosaics, murals, and the upgrade of the Overlook Pavilion; these improvements offset several decades of neglect, apathy, and desecration caused by lack of attention and funding; the new Grant Monument Association, led by Frank J. Scaturro and Edward S. Hochman, can be very proud of their efforts to save this treasured sanctuary and to memorialize this history-making couple;

**Now, Therefore**, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby confer this Special Citation in honor of

## THE 200<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF GENERAL ULYSSES S. GRANT & THE 125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF GRANT'S TOMB

and extend congratulations to the Grant Monument Association, the National Park Service, the United States Military Academy at West Point, and all those affiliated with the General Grant National Memorial, as you commemorate these momentous milestones.



*Kathy Hochul*

Governor

April 27, 2022