



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Citation

**Whereas**, we welcome the opportunity to recognize major historical figures who contributed to New York State as residents and leaders and shaped our collective history forever; it is therefore appropriate that we acknowledge the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of former First Lady Julia Dent Grant, wife of former President Ulysses S. Grant; and

**Whereas**, Julia Dent Grant was born on January 26, 1826 in Saint Louis as the fifth of seven children; she was raised on her family's plantation, White Haven, and was served by and played with slaves growing up; she later attended boarding school until the age of 17; and

**Whereas**, in 1844, she was introduced to her brother Fred's roommate at the United States Military Academy, Ulysses S. Grant; they later entered a relationship and married on August 22, 1848; her husband joined the Civil War effort in 1861 and the two of them exchanged letters during frequent periods of separation, with Julia often traveling to his encampments; they had four children: Frederick, Jesse, Ulysses Jr., and Nellie; and

**Whereas**, Ulysses was elected president of the United States in 1868 and served two subsequent terms, during which Julia became one of the three longest-serving first ladies prior to Eleanor Roosevelt; she frequently met with major government officials, including senators and Supreme Court Justices, and attended Senate hearings; as President Grant's administration implemented new civil rights and voting measures for former slaves, Julia directed that her public receptions at the White House would be open to people of all races; and

**Whereas**, after her husband's presidency ended, Julia accompanied him on a two-and-a-half-year international trip, serving as an ambassador of goodwill for the United States in foreign countries; after moving with her family to New York City in 1881, she became president of the Women's National War Relief Association, leading the organization in supply mobilization efforts during the Spanish-American War; she also wrote *The Personal Memoirs of Julia Dent Grant (Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant)*, which was published posthumously; and

**Whereas**, Julia died in Washington, D.C. on December 14, 1902 and was buried in the General Grant National Memorial, the largest mausoleum in North America, alongside her husband;

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

## THE 200<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF FIRST LADY JULIA DENT GRANT

to preserve her legacy and advance the principles of national service that she and President Grant lived by.



*Kathy Hochul*

Governor  
January 2026