



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, the people of the Empire State are pleased to acknowledge the 100th Anniversary of the New York State Police; this special milestone year of celebration provides a unique opportunity to pay tribute to a venerable and remarkable organization; for the past century, the New York State Police has ably lived up to its vision to serve, protect, and defend the people of New York State, while preserving the rights and dignity of all; and

Whereas, on April 11, 1917, the Wells-Mills Bill, establishing a Department of State Police was passed by the New York State Legislature and signed into law by Governor Charles S. Whitman under Chapter 161 of the Laws of 1917; the initiative was spurred by a need to provide police protection in rural areas which had been highlighted by a heinous murder in Westchester County's Bedford Hills; two women were outraged as this crime went unchallenged, and Moyca Newell and Katherine Mayo launched an effective campaign for a state constabulary; and

Whereas, Governor Whitman appointed a visionary surgeon and soldier as the first Superintendent of the Department of State Police; Major George Fletcher Chandler instituted many innovative practices that became standard procedures for law enforcement agencies around the world, including candidate selection and screening methods and uniforms with easy access to firearms; the first class of this new mounted police force, who came to be known as "Troopers," rode out of Camp Newayo in Manlius 232 men strong; and

Whereas, today, the New York State Police consists of over 5,000 sworn members and more than 900 non-sworn employees, providing an astounding number of special services throughout the Empire State; these services include, but are not limited to, ensuring the safety of New York's roadways and highways and preventing and investigating crimes through canine patrols, counter terrorism activities, crime analysis, forensic sciences and labwork, accident reconstruction, crisis negotiation and narcotics enforcement, with units covering auto theft, firearms tracing, computer crimes, and sexual assault; the New York State Police respond to emergencies and disasters of all natures on land, sea, and air and they provide support to all other law enforcement agencies; and

Whereas, it is appropriate to bestow official commendation upon the New York State Police and to congratulate Superintendent George P. Beach, and the Field Command, Uniform Forces, Field Troops, and Uniform Special Services of each of the 11 Troop Headquarters around the Empire State and at Division Headquarters in Albany for the courage, hard work, and sacrifice of all the men and women who have dedicated themselves to serving the public with excellence and integrity – for which we are all profoundly grateful;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim April 11th as

NEW YORK STATE POLICE DAY

with heartfelt appreciation to the men and women who founded this esteemed law enforcement agency, to those who currently uphold its proud tradition, and to those who will boldly carry its legacy into the future.



G i v e n under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this eleventh day
of April in the year two thousand seventeen.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor