



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Citation

Whereas, the Empire State places the highest priority on the health, safety, and well-being of our children, and we join in celebrating milestones in the advancement of such, recognizing that our contemporary society reflects decades of progress, improvements, and problem-solving that have given rise to highly familiar and identifiable aspects of daily American life; and

Whereas, keeping our children safe for the past 75 years, the Yellow School Bus has been the method of transportation for children on their way to school every morning and back home to their families at the end of each learning day; and

Whereas, the Yellow School Bus is an icon of schools and education in our state and our nation, with its brightly distinctive color reminding us all that children are on their journey to the classroom to learn and prepare for life; and

Whereas, it was 75 years ago, on April 10-16, 1939 that Dr. Franklin W. Cyr, a professor at Teachers College, Columbia University in New York, convened a safety standards conference for educators, engineers, and experts to consider ways to improve safety in transporting students to their schools; and

Whereas, the objective of the conference was to establish national school bus construction standards for the United States, including the standard color of yellow – known officially as “National School Bus Chrome” – chosen for its high visibility and sharp contrast to the black lettering that identified the school district under which the bus operated; and

Whereas, since that landmark conference, multiple improvements have been made to school buses and school bus safety, with decades of technological innovations and social, political, and economic progress realized; and

Whereas, many New Yorkers have cherished memories of their own first rides or their children’s and grandchildren’s first rides to school on the big Yellow School Bus, and we thank the millions of women and men who have dedicated their lives and careers to the safe operation of school buses across America through their work as managers, drivers, dispatchers, attendants, trainers, and technicians; and

Whereas, we also take the opportunity to proudly acknowledge Franklin W. Cyr – a native New Yorker who dedicated his life’s work to education and to the growth and welfare of children, especially honoring Dr. Cyr for his visionary leadership and commitment to ensuring safety and accessibility to education for all students, as a result of the 1939 school bus safety standards conference he organized out of wisdom and concern for our children;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby cite the

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE YELLOW SCHOOL BUS

in commemoration of the adoption of “National School Bus Chrome” as the official color of the school bus in the United States.



Governor
July 2014