



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Citation

**Whereas**, the Empire State is proud to mark milestones in our history and in our progress as a society, including valuable initiatives that help individuals who face challenging circumstances rebuild their lives and restore their self-esteem through meaningful and constructive paths that guide them towards becoming productive and responsible citizens; and

**Whereas**, this year marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of the Wallkill Correctional Facility Second Chances Farm – a program for inmates in a state-accredited curriculum, which fosters positive values and the development of vocational skills, while emphasizing and building self-esteem; and

**Whereas**, created in 1984 in a collaborative effort between the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) and the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation (TRF), Second Chances Farm is an excellent example of a successful and effective partnership between government and the private sector; and

**Whereas**, the Second Chances Farm curriculum was developed with assistance from the New York State Education Department and TRF, which designed courses in Horse Handling and Care, based upon animal husbandry courses taught at Cornell University and several community colleges; and

**Whereas**, DOCCS expanded on TRF's humane mission of rescuing Thoroughbreds at the end of their racing careers as a way to instill inmates with important humanitarian values and to prepare them for re-entry into the community by teaching them a practical skill in caring for these older horses with kindness and compassion; and

**Whereas**, over the past three decades, scores of inmates have been through the Second Chances Farm program, and the bonds forged between TRF's horses and their Wallkill caretakers have been beneficial to many of the men and the experience has given them a new lease on life, imparting them with a sense of responsibility, pride, respect, and renewed self-worth, and changing their outlook on other aspects of their lives; and

**Whereas**, New York State recognizes the positive and life-altering impact of Wallkill Second Chances Farm, as this unique program has not gone unnoticed by other correctional systems in the United States, which have used the TRF model to develop similar programs at both juvenile and adult facilities, demonstrating its effectiveness as a component of vocational correctional programming;

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

THE 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE  
WALLKILL CORRECTIONAL FACILITY  
SECOND CHANCES FARM

and extend congratulations to DOCCS and TRF for their longstanding commitment to vocational programming, and to the rescue, retirement, rehabilitation, and retraining of Thoroughbred horses, carried out in the best interest of the greater public of New York State.



Governor  
June 2014