

2011-J5564

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the United States recognition of Croatia and the establishment of diplomatic relations to be celebrated June 23, 2012

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the United States recognition of Croatia and the establishment of diplomatic relations to be celebrated on Saturday, June 23, 2012, at the Croatian Center, New York, New York; this year's committee includes the Consul General of the Republic of Croatia in New York, Marijan Gubic, and the Croatian Catholic Parish of Saints Cyril and Methodius and Raphael; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious event will serve to commend the Republic of Croatia for advancing freedom and 20 years of diplomatic relations with the United States of America, advancing the values of democracy and independence for all in the world and celebrating U.S. support for Croatia's entrance into the Euro-Atlantic community as an ally of the United States, and the unyielding support of the Croatian-American community in the State of New York in fostering strong economic, educational and cultural ties between Croatia and the United States; and

WHEREAS, The United States recognized the Republic of Croatia on April 7, 1992, acknowledging the decision of the people of Croatia to live in an independent, democratic, and sovereign country; and

WHEREAS, In 1776, the independent Croatian city-state Dubrovnik, was among the first republics in Europe to recognize the independence of America, and sent its merchant marine vessels into New York Harbor; and

WHEREAS, The flag of Dubrovnik also symbolized freedom; the flag of the republic was white, with a St. Blaize, the patron saint, and the word libertas, surrounded by a garland of oak; and

WHEREAS, The United States and the Republic of Croatia established

diplomatic relations on August 11, 1992; and

WHEREAS, The Croatian-American community in the State of New York championed freedom, democracy and independence for the Republic of Croatia; and

WHEREAS, The Croatian-American community in the State of New York contributed to the humanitarian effort caused by the war of aggression against Croatia through concerted efforts, helping with humanitarian supplies, food and medical equipment; and

WHEREAS, The Croatian-American community in the State of New York helped the peace process and worked towards the effort of consolidating democracy in the Republic of Croatia; and

WHEREAS, The Croatian-American community in the State of New York championed the early recognition of Croatia by the Government of the United States; and

WHEREAS, The Croatian-American community in the State of New York published an appeal by 104 Nobel Laureates for Peace in Croatia in the NEW YORK TIMES on Tuesday, January 14, 1992; and

WHEREAS, Since achieving their independence, the people of Croatia have built a democratic society, based on the rule of law, respect for human rights, and a free market economy; and

WHEREAS, Croatia is a functioning democracy, with stable institutions guaranteeing the rule of law, human rights, and market economy; and

WHEREAS, Croatia joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), in recognition of the historic nature of that achievement, earned through years of hard work and a demonstrated commitment to common security and the shared values of NATO members; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the United States recognition of

Croatia and the establishment of diplomatic relations to be celebrated June 23, 2012; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be tran-

mitted to Croatian Catholic Parish of Sts. Cyril and Methodius and St.
Raphael on Manhattan.