

2015-J818

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew Cuomo to proclaim March 25, 2015, as Greek Independence Day in New York State, in conjunction with the observance of the 194th Anniversary of Greek Independence

WHEREAS, The year 2015 will mark the 194th Anniversary of Greek Independence; and

WHEREAS, With the capture of the City of Constantinople, a living symbol of Greek Glory, the Greek people were to endure four centuries of foreign rule under the Ottoman Empire; and

WHEREAS, Rhigas Pheraios, the Poet of the Revolution, a voice which spoke to the conscience of the Greek people, expressed their feelings in his War Hymn: "How long, my heroes, shall we live in bondage...seeing our children turned from the land to bitter enslavement?"; and

WHEREAS, On March 25, 1821, Bishop Germanos, the Metropolitan of Patras, raised the standard of revolt at the Monastery of Aghia Lavra, and the struggle for liberation from cultural deprivation and lack of national identity was begun; and

WHEREAS, This heroic struggle elicited spirited support from the people of the United States and various European countries; and

WHEREAS, After a seven-year war and a prolonged struggle to reach a peace treaty, the people of Hellas were victorious and Greece was, in 1830, finally recognized as an Independent State; and

WHEREAS, The great State of New York has been blessed in many ways, including through the presence of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America; it serves as a beacon of moral and ethical guidance throughout the hemisphere from its Manhattan headquarters; and

WHEREAS, This great Empire State also benefits from its partnership with the Federation of Hellenic-American Societies of Greater New York, which continues its tradition of strong leadership within the Greek-Am-

erican community; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize those New Yorkers of Hellenic descent for their enduring contributions to the educational, social, moral and economic principles which are so deeply ingrained in the fabric of our country and State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew Cuomo to proclaim March 25, 2015, as Greek Independence Day in New York State, in conjunction with the observance of the 194th Anniversary of Greek Independence, and to publicly encourage the citizens of New York to reflect upon the contributions of our Greek community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, and His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church of America.