

2015-J3013

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim November 2015 as American Indian Heritage Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to set aside months which foster ethnic pride and enhance the profile of cultural diversity which strengthens the fabric of the communities of New York State; and WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim November 2015 as American Indian Heritage Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with National American Indian Heritage Month; and

WHEREAS, American Indian Heritage Month first began as American Indian Day, proposed by Dr. Arthur C. Parker, a Seneca Indian, who was the director of the Museum of Arts and Science in Rochester, New York; he persuaded the Boy Scouts of America to set aside a day for the "First Americans" and for three years they adopted such a day; and

WHEREAS, In 1915, the annual Congress of the American Indian Association meeting in Lawrence, Kansas, formally approved a plan concerning American Indian Day; it directed its president, Reverend Sherman Coolidge, an Arapahoe, to call upon the country to observe the occasion; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Sherman Coolidge issued a proclamation on September 28, 1915, which declared the second Saturday of each May as American Indian Day and contained the first formal appeal for recognition of Indians as citizens; and

WHEREAS, The first American Indian Day in a state was declared on the second Saturday in May of 1916, by the governor of New York; and

WHEREAS, On August 3, 1990, President George H. W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating the month of November as National American

Indian Heritage Month, thereafter commonly referred to as Native American Heritage Month; and

WHEREAS, It is most fitting to set aside this month to highlight and honor the history and heritage of the American Indian and to remember and pay tribute to the contributions they have made to our State and our Nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim November 2015 as American Indian Heritage Month in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York.