

## 2015-J4553

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 2016, as Bangladeshi-American Heritage Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body, in keeping with its time-honored traditions, to recognize and pay tribute to those who foster ethnic pride and enhance the profile of cultural diversity which strengthen the fabric of the communities of New York State; and

WHEREAS, The citizens of this great Empire State are proud to recognize and commemorate Bangladeshi-American Heritage Month, an observance which celebrates the contributions of Bangladeshi-Americans to New York State's unique heritage; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 2016, as Bangladeshi-American Heritage Month in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, March 26th marks the 45th Anniversary of the Independence of Bangladesh; and

WHEREAS, More than 74,000 Bangladeshi immigrants live in New York City, a 20 percent increase since 2009, making them the 11th-largest foreign-born population in the City; and

WHEREAS, Bangladeshi-Americans maintain large residential communities in Parkchester in the Bronx, Kensington in Brooklyn, and Richmond Hill and Jamaica Hills in Queens among other neighborhoods and communities throughout the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Our State and Nation are blessed with many citizens of Bangladesh descent who are distinguished by their excellence and their contributions to all fields of endeavor; some of these esteemed residents include: Jawad Karim, co-founder of YouTube; Abul Hussam, inventor of the Sono arsenic filter; Abuhena Saifulislam, first Muslim to be

appointed as imam in the United States Navy; M. Osman Siddique, American diplomat and second Muslim-American to serve as a U.S. Ambassador; and Hansen Clarke, former U.S. Congressman and first Bangladeshi-American to serve in Congress; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, Bangladeshi-Americans have greatly contributed to the leadership, wisdom and vitality of our great State and Nation, have become engaged in community life and are represented among a wide array of professions and careers such as: doctors, engineers, computer scientists, programmers, web designers, lawyers, accountants, professors, research scientists, pharmacists, nurses, investment bankers, insurers, management consultants, poets, writers, columnists, journalists, editors, members of the military and consultants in Federal and State governments; and

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body to recognize those important months which remind us of the rich and diverse heritage of our great State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, It is duly fitting that all New Yorkers join in these important celebrations of one of our State's most vibrant communities; this much anticipated observance and its accompanying activities will foster greater appreciation for Bangladeshi culture and serve to promote the spirit of cooperation that is characteristic of all citizens of New York State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 2016, as Bangladeshi-American 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.