

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 32nd Anniversary of the Independence of Antigua and Barbuda

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay just tribute to the cultural heritage of the ethnic groups which comprise and contribute to the richness and diversity of the community of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in keeping with its time-honored traditions, it is the intent of this Legislative Body to commemorate the 32nd Anniversary of the Independence of Antigua and Barbuda; and

WHEREAS, The people of this great State and nation and Antigua and Barbuda enjoy a deep and abiding relationship rooted in kinship and culture; and

WHEREAS, Antigua and Barbuda's Independence Day is celebrated on November 1st of every year; and

WHEREAS, Antigua and Barbuda is a small island country in the Northern Leeward Islands of the Caribbean Sea; the country consists of three islands, Antigua, Barbuda and Redonda, with an estimated population of around 80,000 inhabitants; and

WHEREAS, Antigua and Barbuda's main economy is tourism; natives are known for their strong skills of arts and crafts; and

WHEREAS, The majority of the population are descendants of African slaves who were brought to grow sugar cane and tobacco on the island in the colonial era - such as the British in the 17th century; and

WHEREAS, In 1493, it is said the island of Antigua was sighted by Christopher Columbus and named after a Spanish church in Seville; it was not until 1632 when the British colonized Antigua, Barbuda was colonized 29 years later; and

WHEREAS, In 1967, the three islands of Antigua, Barbuda, and Redonda became dependencies; as associated States of the Commonwealth, they achieved full independence within the Commonwealth in 1981; and

WHEREAS, The 32nd Anniversary of Antigua and Barbuda's Independence provides an opportunity to recognize the significance of its contributions to the quality and character of life, and, through events and activities, for all people to gain a greater appreciation of its history and traditions, and of the role it has played, and will continue to play, in our society; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is pleased to have this opportunity to recognize such events of significance which foster ethnic pride and exemplify the cultural diversity that represents and strengthens the fabric of the people and the State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 32nd Anniversary of the Independence of Antigua and Barbuda.