

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim October 2013 as Filipino American History Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, The earliest documented Filipino presence in the continental United States was on October 18, 1587, when the first "Luzones Indios" set foot in Morro Bay, California, on board the Manila-built galleon ship Nuestra Senora de Esperanza; and

WHEREAS, The Filipino American National Historical Society recognized the year 1763 as the date of the first permanent Filipino settlement in the United States in St. Malo, Louisiana, which set in motion the focus on the story of our Nation's past from a new perspective by concentrating on the economic, cultural, social and other notable contributions that Filipino Americans have made in countless ways toward the development of the history of the United States; and

WHEREAS, New York State has the third largest population of Filipino Americans and the largest population of Filipino Americans on the East Coast; and

WHEREAS, Filipino Americans have a long-standing history of serving in the United States Armed Forces, from the Civil War to the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, including the 25,000 Filipinos who fought under the United States flag during World War II to protect and defend this country; and

WHEREAS, Filipino Americans are an integral part of the United States health care system as nurses, doctors, and other medical professions; and

WHEREAS, Filipino Americans have contributed greatly to the fine arts, music, dance, literature, business, journalism, education, science, technology, government, politics, fashion, and other fields in the United States that enrich the landscape of the country; and

WHEREAS, Efforts must continue to promote the study of Filipino American history and culture, as mandated in the mission statement of the Filipino American National Historical Society, because the roles of Filipino Americans and other people of color have been overlooked in the writing, teaching, and learning of United States history; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative for Filipino American youth to have positive role models to instill in them the importance of education, complemented with the richness of their ethnicity and the value of their legacy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim October 2013 as Filipino American History 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.