

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 203rd Anniversary of Colombia's Declaration of Independence on July 20, 2013

WHEREAS, Colombia is the only overland gateway joining North and Central America with South America; and

WHEREAS, Native Colombians, African people, and Spanish settlers contributed to the "cultural melting pot" of what is today Colombia; and

WHEREAS, After centuries under Spanish colonial rule characterized by political uprisings, cultural and religious influence, and the emergence of new social classes, Colombia's independence process started on July 20, 1810; and

WHEREAS, On that day, the citizens of Bogota created the first representative council leading to what would become Colombia's first national government; and

WHEREAS, Though this revolutionary movement was only the beginning of Colombia's process of independence, it was a crucial turning point for the nation's social cohesion and much of Latin America; and

WHEREAS, Led by Simon Bolivar, complete victory over the Spanish was declared in August of 1819; and

WHEREAS, Today, Colombia is often recognized as Latin America's oldest democracy; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body would like to recognize that New York is home to many Colombians and Colombian-Americans and would like to join them in celebrating Colombia's Independence Day; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 203rd Anniversary of Colombia's Declaration of Independence, on July 20, 2013; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Francisco Noguera Rocha, Consul General of Colombia in New York, and to New York's various Colombian organizations.