

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 203rd Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Paraguay

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to celebrate historical events which exemplify the spirit and struggle of peoples throughout the world to achieve independence and live in peace and freedom; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 203rd Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Paraguay, May 14, 2014; and

WHEREAS, Pre-Columbian society in the wooded, fertile region which is now present-day Paraguay, consisted of semi-nomadic tribes, who were recognized for their fierce warrior traditions; and

WHEREAS, These indigenous tribes were members of five distinct language families, and 17 separate ethno-linguistic groups which still remain today; and

WHEREAS, Europeans first arrived in the area in the early 16th Century, and the settlement of Asuncion, the capital and largest city of Paraguay, was founded on August 15, 1537, by the Spanish explorer Juan de Salazar y Espinoza; and

WHEREAS, The city of Asuncion eventually became the center of a Spanish colonial province, as well as a primary site of the Jesuit missions and settlements in South America in the 18th Century; and

WHEREAS, Jesuit Reductions were founded and flourished in eastern Paraguay for about 150 years until the expulsion of the Jesuits by the Spanish crown in 1767; Paraguay declared its independence after overthrowing the local Spanish administration on May 14, 1811; and

WHEREAS, The first Paraguayans arrived in America between 1841 and 1850; today, it is still a developing nation; its citizens have endured through both national political instability and a transition toward a democratic government; and

WHEREAS, While a small nation in size and population, Paraguay is a nation of rich cultural diversity; Guaraní, the secondary national language, is spoken in communities throughout Paraguay; and

WHEREAS, There are a number of Paraguayans who have come to New York City in pursuit of economic opportunity; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize the great contributions which Paraguayans have brought to our State and Nation, and to wish them all continued success in their purposeful endeavors; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 203rd Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Paraguay; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to esteemed Paraguayan organizations in the State of New York.