

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

WHEREAS, The year 2013 will mark the 192nd Anniversary of Greek Independence; and

WHEREAS, This Independence was won on March 25, 1821, when the people of Greece were released from nearly four centuries of rule by the Ottoman Empire under the leadership of the heroic Theodoros Kolokotronis; and

WHEREAS, Under Kolokotronis' leadership, the people of Greece formally declared their sovereignty, ending a hard-fought 11-year war which finally secured their freedom and garnered recognition as a sovereign country; and

WHEREAS, Throughout history, the Greek people have continuously exhibited this enduring sense of bravery in rising up against oppressors; with Winston Churchill noting in a famed World War II speech that "Until now we used to say that the Greeks fight like heroes. Now we shall say: The heroes fight like Greeks."; and

WHEREAS, Ancient Greece has shaped modern society by originating the concepts of Logic, Science, Lyrics, Philosophy, and History as well as being the birthplace of democratic ideals, inspiring the notion of participation in government that influenced the framing of the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, Greece has continued to enrich our culture in the fields of literature, philosophy and architecture and has promoted the modern Olympic Games, hosting the first in 1896 and most recently in 2004, and we honor Greek-Americans in New York who have improved our community, shown love for family, and shared with us their traditions to learn and celebrate; and

WHEREAS, The great State of New York has been blessed in many ways, including through the presence of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America; it serves as a beacon of moral and ethical guidance throughout the hemisphere from its Manhattan headquarters; and

WHEREAS, New York is further enhanced by its long-standing partnership with the Federation of Hellenic-American Societies, which continues its tradition of strong leadership within the Greek-American community; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize those New Yorkers of Hellenic descent for their enduring contributions to the educational, social, moral and economic principles that are so deeply ingrained in the fabric of our country and State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to proclaim March 2013 as Greek-American History Month in New York State, and to publicly encourage the citizens of New York to reflect upon the contributions of our Greek community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York; and His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church of America.