

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the celebration of Danish Constitution Day, June 5, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body, in keeping with its time-honored traditions, to recognize and pay tribute to those events which foster ethnic pride and enhance the profile of the cultural diversity which strengthens the fabric of the communities of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to this concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the celebration of Danish Constitution Day, June 5, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Grundlovsdag, which means Constitution Day in Denmark, is celebrated on June 5th each year; it commemorates the anniversary of the signing of the Danish constitution of 1849, by Frederik IV, which established Denmark as a constitutional monarchy; the Kingdom of Denmark includes Denmark, Greenland and the Faroe Islands; and

WHEREAS, The throne of Denmark was established in the 10th Century and is the oldest in Europe and third oldest in the world; through to the 17th Century, the majority of decisions in Danish rule came through the monarchy and each monarch was obliged to sign the Haandfaestning wherein he promised to rule fairly; and

WHEREAS, In 1660, Denmark became a constitutional monarchy, effectively removing the monarchy from absolute power and putting decision making into the hands of the leaders of government; from this time, aside from the royal power of the king, three types of powers existed in Denmark: legislative, executive and judicial; and

WHEREAS, Including the signing of the first constitution, five constitutions have been written and signed: 1849, 1866, 1915, 1920 and 1953; none of these had amendments but each was superseded by the one following; on June 5, 1915, women received the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, New York State is home to more than 35,000 people who come from Danish ancestry; and

WHEREAS, Constitution Day in Denmark is commemorated by a half- or full-day holiday; many places hold festivals and there are often political rallies; students, graduates, bands and organizations march in parades behind the bright red and white of the Danish flag; the flag also dominates many buildings across the country; and

WHEREAS, Since 1935, the date June 5th, perhaps symbolically, has also been the date the Danish celebrate Fathers' Day; and

WHEREAS, The celebration of Constitution Day has contributed to the Danish-American experience and to the preservation and enhancement of the Danish culture and heritage, adding so much to the rich mosaic of which our great State and Nation are comprised; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the celebration of Danish Constitution Day, June 5, 2016.