

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 2016 as Russian American History Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, The history and participation of people of Russian heritage in the American experience will be greatly enhanced and appreciated through the observation of April 2016 as Russian American History Month in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Individuals of Russian heritage such as Ivan Turchaninov, Union Army Brigadier General; Igor Sikorsky, inventor of the helicopter and the multi-engine airplane; Vladimir Zworykin, a Russian American inventor, engineer, and pioneer of television technology; composers Sergei Rachmaninoff and Igor Stravinsky; Yul Bryner and Kirk Douglas, Hollywood legends; Serge Brin, co-founder and head of the Google Corporation; Irving Berlin, author of the song "God Bless America," and many others have made important contributions to the United States and the world; and

WHEREAS, The recognition of such significant contributions will enhance the opportunities for Russian American youth to take pride in their forebears and to identify with them as role models; and

WHEREAS, Colored by shadows of the Cold War, Americans sometimes hold perceptions of Russian Americans which obscure the fact that there has never been a war between Russia and the United States; in fact our nations were allies during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Better knowledge of the role of Russian Americans in the history of the United States and of relations between Russia and America can lead to more productive opportunities for all; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 2016 as Russian American History Month in the State of New York and to urge that during this month there be active efforts to examine the subject in public schools, colleges, universities and other venues and that events and activities supporting interest and attention to Russian American history and how Russian Americans have retained their cultural identity while contributing significantly to the enrichment of New York State and America be encouraged; 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 to Dr. Olga Zatsepina, Chair of the Coalition in Support of Russian American History Month, and President of the RACH-C, (Russian American Cultural Heritage Center, Inc.); Sergey I. Kislyak, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the United States; The Honorable Igor L. Golubovsky, Consul General of the Russian Federation in New York; Bishop John of Naro-Fominsk, Administrator of the Patriarchal parishes in the United States of America; Metropolitan Hilarion of Eastern America and New York, First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church outside of Russia; Dr. Cyril Geacintov, President of the Russian Nobility Association in America; Tatiana Deptola, President of the New Russia Cultural Center in Albany; and to other Members of the Coalition.