

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim Wednesday, June 24, 2015, as Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, Attendant to that shared patrimony of culture and endeavor which so clearly identifies the Heritage of Americans of French-Canadian ancestry, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim Wednesday, June 24, 2015, as Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud of its unyielding effort to sustain and to yet strengthen that endowment of mutual trust and unparalleled cooperation which is the shared history of the United States and the beloved Nation of Canada; and

WHEREAS, With commensurate regard for those thousands of Americans of French-Canadian ancestry residing in the State of New York, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to urge the proclamation of Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day on June 24, 2015, as a day specifically commemorating that patrimony of religious and cultural identification which is the living endowment of the French-Canadian people; and

WHEREAS, The French have celebrated the Feast Day of La Saint-Jean-Baptiste (St. John the Baptist Day) since the early days of French settlement in North America, and have recognized this day as their national holiday; and

WHEREAS, The French-Canadian people have so manifestly contributed to the cause of America's freedom in both war and peace; and

WHEREAS, Quebec and the State of New York have long shared a common border, a border not of division but of designation, indicating where one experiment in democracy begins and another continues; and

WHEREAS, The history of the French-Canadian people constitutes a chronology of compelling dimension; it veritably records and catalogues the adherence to those principles of spirit and endeavor which, taken in their entirety, that is, in light of French history, proclaim and yet foster the brotherhood of man; and

WHEREAS, La Federation Franco-Americaine du New York has so assiduously labored to preserve, to promote and to yet enhance the cultural Heritage of Americans of French-Canadian ancestry; and

WHEREAS, La Federation Franco-Americaine is the living estuary to an indomitable Heritage, to a Heritage distinguished by an unquenchable yearning for freedom; from its broad basin of promulgation and inquiry emanate the current of tradition and the irrepressible tide of freedom; and

WHEREAS, Through its unyielding commitment to Americans of French-Canadian extraction, to those whose dream most clearly defines, in the immediacy and clarity of its goals, the full promise of our American experience, La Federation Franco-Americaine has given renewed and imperishable hope to so many; and

WHEREAS, Franco-Canadians have played an important part in the history of New York State for over 400 years, since the discovery of Lake George - originally named Lac du Saint-Sacrement - by Father Isaac Jogues, the discovery of Niagara Falls by La Salle, and the exploration of the Niagara region by Joliet and Hennepin; the French presence in New York State is reflected not only by the many French place-names such as Ausable Forks, Chazy, Champlain, Rouses Point, and Chautauqua County, among others, but in more than 200,000 French patronyms of the citizens of New York State; and

WHEREAS, The French fought beside New Yorkers in the American Revolution under Brigadier General Moses Hazen, where over 2,000 of them served in the Civil War and many served in every other major conflict in

which New Yorkers have been called to serve; and

WHEREAS, The thousands of French-Canadian immigrants coming to New York between 1850 and 1920 have been key participants in the industrial revolution that ensured the economic development of this Empire State; in due time, these immigrants became American citizens and eventually were known as "Franco-Americans" because of their new and definite political allegiance to the United States of America, making many economic, civic, educational and religious contributions to New York State; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that the Americans of French-Canadian ancestry have so manifestly contributed to the preservation, enhancement and effectuation of that patrimony of freedom which is our American Heritage; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim June 24, 2015, as Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day in the State of New York; 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 Bernard Ouimet, President, Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day Committee of La Federation Franco-Americaine du New York.