

**BY:** Senator PARKER

**MEMORIALIZING** Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim  
June 19, 2017, as Sickle Cell Awareness Day in the  
State of New York

**WHEREAS,** It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official days that are set aside to increase awareness of serious illnesses that affect the lives of citizens of New York State; and

**WHEREAS,** Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim June 19, 2017, as Sickle Cell Awareness Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of World Sickle Cell Day on June 19, 2016; and

**WHEREAS,** World Sickle Cell Day, celebrated on June 19th of each year, is recognized globally and was created by the United Nations by resolution; in the United States, September is Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month, however it is not recognized in every state and is not recognized globally; it is created by State representatives voting to recognize it in their individual state; and

**WHEREAS,** Sickle cell disease is a hereditary blood disorder that can cause severe pain and result in damage to the brain and other vital organs like the kidneys, liver, spleen and heart; and

**WHEREAS,** People who have the disease, but do not experience the symptoms are said to have the sickle cell trait; currently, an estimated 100,000 Americans are living with the disease; and

**WHEREAS,** Since Sickle Cell Awareness Month was created in 1983, every child born in the United States is screened for the disease so that those diagnosed can begin treatment right away; and

**WHEREAS,** The only known cure for sickle cell disease is through a transplant of bone marrow or stem cells; and

**WHEREAS,** Sickle cell disease is most common in Africans and African-Americans, but the disease can also be found in other demographics, primarily in South and Central America, the Caribbean, Mediterranean countries and India; approximately 1 in 12 African-Americans are diagnosed with the trait; and

**WHEREAS,** The most basic symptoms of sickle cell disease are fatigue, shortness of breath and episodes of serious pain that will likely require hospitalization; these symptoms will begin to show within the very first year of a person's life if they have the disease and the pain ranges from mild to very severe; and

**WHEREAS,** It is imperative that there be greater awareness of this serious health condition, and more must be done to increase activity at

the local, State and National levels; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim June 19, 2017, as Sickle Cell Awareness Day in the State of New York; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York.