

BY: Senator TEDISCO

COMMEMORATING the 88th Anniversary of "The Star-Spangled Banner" as the national anthem of the United States of America

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay just tribute to musical ballads which symbolize the historical, social and cultural development of this great Nation and embody the spirit of the principles upon which it was founded; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 88th Anniversary of "The Star-Spangled Banner" as the national anthem of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, "The Star-Spangled Banner," which quickly became a well-known U.S. patriotic song, was officially made the national anthem by a congressional resolution on March 3, 1931, which was signed by President Herbert Hoover; and

WHEREAS, The lyrics for "The Star-Spangled Banner" come from the Defence of Fort M'Henry, a poem written on September 14, 1814, by the then 35-year-old lawyer and amateur poet Francis Scott Key after witnessing the bombardment of Fort McHenry by British ships of the Royal Navy in Baltimore Harbor during the Battle of Baltimore in the War of 1812; and

WHEREAS, Francis Scott Key was inspired by the large United States flag, with 15 stars and 15 stripes, known as The Star-Spangled Banner, flying triumphantly above the fort during the United States victory; and

WHEREAS, The American Flag has been the symbol of the Republic for 242 years; the current 50-star version was raised for the first time officially at 12:01 a.m., July 4, 1960, at Fort McHenry National Monument in Baltimore, Maryland, heralding the admission of our 50th state, Hawaii; the State of New York was added to the Union on July 9, 1776; and

WHEREAS, Although it is made up of four stanzas, only the first is commonly sung today: "O! say can you see by the dawn's early light, What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming, Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight, O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming? And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air, Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there; O! say does that star-spangled banner yet wave O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?"; and

WHEREAS, Gaining popularity throughout the 19th Century, "The Star-Spangled Banner" is played before thousands of sporting events every year, as well as public events, such as Independence Day celebrations; and

WHEREAS, The earliest documented performance of "The Star-Spangled Banner" at a baseball game took place at Union Grounds in Brooklyn, New York, on May 15, 1862; and

WHEREAS, "The Star-Spangled Banner" is not only a tribute to our rich history, but a reflection of our living commitment to the exercise of freedom, a legacy which rings through the ages and touches every citizen throughout the land of liberty; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 88th Anniversary of "The Star Spangled Banner" as the national anthem of the United States of America.