

BY: M. of A. Cruz

COMMEMORATING the 200th Anniversary of the
Independence of Colombia

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay just tribute to the cultural heritage of the ethnic groups which comprise and contribute to the richness and diversity of the community of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in keeping with its time-honored traditions, it is the intent of this Legislative Body to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the formal Independence of Colombia from Spain at this year's Ofrenda Floral at the Simon Bolivar Monument in New York, New York, on Friday, July 19, 2019; and

WHEREAS, On July 20, 1810, Colombian patriots stirred the population of Bogota into street protests against Spanish rule; this was the beginning of the process that, after almost a decade, led to the definitive independence of Colombia; and

WHEREAS, It was in Pore, Casanare, that generals Simon Bolivar and Francisco de Paula Santander, and the Provincial Congress proclaimed their intentions to form a new government separate of the Spaniards in 1818; and

WHEREAS, Eight years after their initial "cry for independence" in 1810, the pro-independence army left Pore and ultimately defeated their colonial masters during the legendary Battle of Boyaca; and

WHEREAS, Two hundred years after Simon Bolivar and Francisco de Paula Santander led the fight for the independence from Spain and established the Republica; despite the challenges they have met along their history, the Colombian people have developed a strong national identity; and

WHEREAS, Simon Bolivar escaped to Cartagena, the main seaport of neighboring Colombia, which is in rebel hands, and here he pens a powerful political pamphlet, the "Manifesto de Cartagena," addressed to the citizens of New Granada; in it, he offers the inspiring vision of a united effort to expel the Spaniards; and

WHEREAS, In 1819, Simon Bolivar's small force, of only about 2,500 men, used cowhide boats to cross a succession of flooded tributaries of the Orinoco; this ordeal is followed by one even worse, a mountain crossing during which a considerable number of the independence band die of cold; and

WHEREAS, However, the surprise holds, and the men descend from the high passes upon an unsuspecting enemy; the Spanish army surrendered after a skirmish at Boyaca, on August 7, 1819; three days later Simon Bolivar enters Bogota, and the Republica de Colombia is proclaimed on

December 17th; once the independence process was completed, the new nation covered the entire region of modern Colombia, Panama, Ecuador, and Venezuela; and

WHEREAS, The commemoration of the Bicentennial of Colombia began on June 5, 2019, 7:00 a.m. in the village of Barrancones, where some historians say was the place chosen for the passage of troops from Venezuela; and

WHEREAS, The Minister highlighted how a group of Araucanians of the present will prepare to start the march along the old liberation route, accompanied by members of the Brigade 18 of the National Army, which will represent 14 historic lancers; and

WHEREAS, From June 7-8, 2019, a Panel of Historians of Bolivarian Countries was held in Arauca, and the National Symphony Orchestra offered two concerts for the first time in these cities, one in Arauca and the next in Tame; and

WHEREAS, To inaugurate the event, President Ivan Duque and Vice President Marta Lucia Ramirez visited the municipality of Pore, in Casanare; this auspicious occasion was observed with a commemorative plaque, a military parade, and a presentation of an official logo by Vice President Ramirez, as well as a cultural show with the participation of Walter Silva, Cholo Valderrama, and Jorge Celedon; and

WHEREAS, The 200th Anniversary of the Independence of Colombia provides an opportunity to recognize the significance of their contributions to the quality and character of life, and, through events and activities, for all people to gain a greater appreciation of Colombian history and traditions, and of the role Colombians have played, and will continue to play, in our society; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is pleased to have this opportunity to recognize such events of significance which foster ethnic pride and exemplify the cultural diversity that represents and strengthens the fabric of the people and the State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the Independence of Colombia; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Susana Berenguer, Consul General of Colombia.