

BY: M. of A. Blake

COMMEMORATING the 63rd Anniversary of the
Independence of Ghana

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 full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 63rd Anniversary of the Independence of Ghana; and

WHEREAS, America is home to hundreds of thousands of people of Ghanaian heritage, including those who were born on this soil, those whose family emigrated here for economic opportunity and those who have recently traced their roots to ancestors taken from Ghana as part of the Transatlantic slave trade; and

WHEREAS, The United States and Ghana share a long history with Kwame Nkrumah, Ghana's first President, who studied at several American universities, working alongside Civil Rights leaders before becoming President of the first sub-Saharan African country to gain independence from colonization on March 6, 1957; and

WHEREAS, Today, the relationship between the two countries has deepened with the most recent successful execution of Ghana's "Year of Return" celebration which occurred in December of 2019; this widely publicized celebratory event commemorated 400 years of the first enslaved Africans arriving in Jamestown, Virginia, who hailed from Ghana's shores; and

WHEREAS, Extraordinarily, more than one billion dollars was poured into the country during last year's celebration as a result of the mass migration of African Americans, fellow Africans, Caribbean, and Afro-Latinos who visited the country to celebrate this historic moment; and

WHEREAS, The Bronx, New York is home to the largest community of Ghanaians compared to any other state in the U.S.; the City of New York is host to many businesses run by Ghanaian entrepreneurs, investors, and creatives; and

WHEREAS, Ghanaians have also demonstrated their civic and political engagement by running for office, holding key government positions, and becoming active voices within their unions; and

WHEREAS, Ghana is among the top five African countries with a fast-growing immigrant population in the United States; Ghanaian-Americans are an important fabric in the tapestry of America and in all parts of this great State; and

WHEREAS, The culture is difficult to ignore with its rich food, the iconic Kente cloth, storytelling, inventions, architecture and its dominance on the music scene; and

WHEREAS, The 63rd Anniversary of Ghana's Independence 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 Ghanaian history and traditions, and of the role Ghanaians 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 63rd Anniversary of the Independence of Ghana.