

Senate Resolution No. 1499

BY: Senator PARKER

RECOGNIZING December 25, 2022, as Quaid-e-Azam
Mohammad Ali Jinnah's 146th Birthday

WHEREAS, From time to time we take note of certain individuals whom we wish to recognize for their valued contributions and to publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to recognize December 25, 2022, as Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah's 146th Birthday; and

WHEREAS, A barrister, politician and the founder of Pakistan, Muhammad Ali Jinnah served as the leader of the All-India Muslim League from 1913 until Pakistan's independence on August 14, 1947, and then as Pakistan's first Governor-General until his death on September 11, 1948; and

WHEREAS, Muhammad Ali Jinnah is revered in Pakistan as Quaid-i-Azam (Great Leader) and Baba-i-Qaum (Father of the Nation); his birthday a national holiday in Pakistan; and

WHEREAS, Born at Wazir Mansion in Karachi, Muhammad Ali Jinnah was trained as a barrister at Lincoln's Inn in London; upon his return to British India, he enrolled at the Bombay High Court, and took an interest in national politics, which eventually replaced his legal practice; and

WHEREAS, Muhammad Ali Jinnah rose to prominence in the Indian National Congress in the first two decades of the 20th century; in these early years of his political career, he advocated Hindu-Muslim unity, helping to shape the 1916 Lucknow Pact between the Congress and the All-India Muslim League in which Jinnah had also become prominent; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, he became a key leader in the All India Home Rule League, and proposed a fourteen-point constitutional reform plan to safeguard the political rights of Muslims; in 1920, however, Jinnah resigned from the Congress when it agreed to follow a campaign of satyagraha, which he regarded as political anarchy; and

WHEREAS, By 1940, Muhammad Ali Jinnah had come to believe that Muslims of the Indian subcontinent should have their own state to avoid the possible marginalized status they may gain in a Hindu-Muslim state; and

WHEREAS, In that year, the Muslim League, led by Jinnah, passed the Lahore Resolution, demanding a separate nation; during the Second World War, the League gained strength while leaders of the Congress were imprisoned, and in the elections held shortly after the war, it won most of the seats reserved for Muslims; and

WHEREAS, Ultimately, the Congress and the Muslim League could not reach a power-sharing formula for the subcontinent to be united as a single state, leading all parties to agree to the independence of a predominantly Hindu India, and for a Muslim-majority state of Pakistan; and

WHEREAS, As the first Governor-General of Pakistan, Muhammad Ali Jinnah worked to establish the new nation's government and policies, and to aid the millions of Muslim migrants who had emigrated from the new nation of India to Pakistan after independence, personally supervising the establishment of refugee camps; and

WHEREAS, Muhammad Ali Jinnah passed away in September of 1948, just over a year after Pakistan gained independence from the United Kingdom; and

WHEREAS, Innumerable streets, roads and localities in the world are named after this extraordinary man who left a deep and respected legacy in Pakistan and across the globe; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to recognize December 25, 2022, as Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah's 146th Birthday.