

BY: M. of A. Sayegh

MEMORIALIZING Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim February 5, 2021, as Kashmir American Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim February 5, 2021, as Kashmir American Day in the State of New York, as it is to be observed by Kashmiris statewide, celebrating the Kashmiri cultural identity; and

WHEREAS, The Kashmiri community has overcome adversity, shown perseverance, and established themselves as one of the pillars of the New York immigrant communities; and

WHEREAS, Kashmiri people living around the world speak the Koshur language and practice their distinct and ancient rites of Islam, Hinduism, and Sikhism; and in the recognition of their unique cultural identity and storied history, which has its roots in the Himalayan foothills and the Pir Panjal Range, helps to keep the Kashmiri identity alive; and

WHEREAS, The State of New York endeavors to champion human rights including the freedom of religion, movement, and expression for all Kashmiri people, which are embedded within the United States Constitution, through the recognition of diverse cultural, ethnic, and religious identities; and

WHEREAS, New York State is a leader in terms of progress and social justice; this Legislative Body acknowledges that this Resolution makes New York the first State to recognize Kashmir American Day; and

WHEREAS, By consistently honoring Kashmiri cultural identity, it provides both the American public with a greater awareness of their struggles, and the Kashmiri diaspora community with a symbol of hope for the future; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim February 5, 2021, as Kashmir American Day in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York; and the American Pakistani Advocacy Group (APAG).