

BY: Senator COMRIE

COMMEMORATING the 61st Anniversary of the
Independence of Trinidad and Tobago

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 61st Anniversary of the Independence of Trinidad and Tobago; and

WHEREAS, The celebration of Trinidad and Tobago's independence affirms the culture, identity and self-esteem of a people; it honors a rich heritage and illuminates Trinidad and Tobago's history and tradition, as well as the spirit of an indomitable people; and

WHEREAS, The people of this great State and nation and Trinidad and Tobago enjoy a deep and abiding relationship rooted in kinship and culture, and many New Yorkers proudly trace their own roots to Trinidad and Tobago; and

WHEREAS, Trinidad and Tobago were one of those countries in the British colony that became a part of the post war, decolonization process; the country was granted their independence on August 31, 1962; and

WHEREAS, Christopher Columbus discovered Trinidad in 1498, and the country became a colony of Spain; Tobago was first invaded by the Dutch and later saw the French invasion with Spain as its ally; and

WHEREAS, Later, British colonists settled in Trinidad in 1802, and in Tobago in 1814; it was in 1888 that both Trinidad and Tobago were made a single entity; this country was prone to colonization because of its rich minerals and crude oil; and

WHEREAS, However, this country, with a history of so many nations trying to colonize its inhabitants, had taken a toll on the common people; the independence of Trinidad and Tobago brought a sigh of relief to its native people; and

WHEREAS, The 61st Anniversary of Trinidad and Tobago'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 Trinidad and Tobago's history and traditions, and of the role Trinidadians 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 61st Anniversary of the Independence of Trinidad and Tobago.