

BY: M. of A. Raga

COMMEMORATING the 199th Anniversary of Bolivian Independence Day to be celebrated on August 6, 2024

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 long-standing traditions, it is the intent of this Legislative Body to commemorate the 199th Anniversary of Bolivian Independence Day to be celebrated on August 6, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Bolivian Independence Day is celebrated annually on August 6th, commemorating the signing of a Declaration of Independence from Spain on August 6, 1825, after approximately 300 years of Spanish rule; and

WHEREAS, The Bolivian War of Independence lasted from 1809-1825, involving the regions of Peru, Upper Peru, the Colonies, and Spain; in 1817, the Viceroyalty of Peru retained power over these regions; and

WHEREAS, General Simon Bolivar began to free Colombia and Venezuela from Spain's power; in 1822, he commissioned Antonio Jose de Sucre to aid in the Battle of Pichincha in the region of Ecuador; together, they defeated Spanish forces in various battles, victoriously securing independence for Peru; and

WHEREAS, Nearly one year later, in tribute to General Simon Bolivar, the Republic of Bolivia was founded on August 6, 1825; and

WHEREAS, To honor the triumphs of both General Simon Bolivar and Antonio Jose de Sucre, a new Constitutional Congress was established, and both courageous men served as Bolivia's first and second Presidents, respectively; and

WHEREAS, Some of these traditions include El Grito de Libertad, known as the Cry of Freedom, commencing with the ringing of bells at midnight and congregations of Bolivians chanting, "Viva Bolivia!" ("Long live Bolivia!") throughout the towns; and

WHEREAS, Customary folk dances, which display reverence to Bolivia's roots, European influences, and African heritage, are performed; the mixture of customs, languages, and societies of many cultures, including the Aymara, Quechua, Afro-Bolivian, and Mestizo peoples, are honored by the Bolivian population; and

WHEREAS, Bolivian Independence Day affords the Bolivian-American community an opportunity to honor and celebrate the culture and traditions which have been introduced to New York State; through

numerous festivities, these proud people share their celebratory practices with other communities within the State; and

WHEREAS, In New York State, Bolivians express their folklore and traditions through carnivals, fireworks, and the Hispanic Day Parade; dance groups demonstrate ancient tales and legends through their performances; and

WHEREAS, Additionally, food, art, clothing, and music portray Bolivia's rich heritage; the Bombin hat, Caporales dance, Mestizo Baroque art, Saltenas empanadas, and Zampona flute are represented at numerous events and celebrations in New York City; and

WHEREAS, Bolivia's contributions to our great State of New York are invaluable and should be cherished and extolled; it is the conglomeration of many different cultures that makes this State and this Nation so unique and exceptional; 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 199th Anniversary of Bolivian Independence Day to be celebrated on August 6, 2024; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the esteemed Bolivian organizations in the State of New York.