

BY: M. of A. Raga

COMMEMORATING the 214th Anniversary of Ecuadorian
Independence Day on August 10, 2023

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body, in keeping with its time-honored traditions, to recognize and pay tribute to all who foster ethnic pride and enhance the profile of cultural diversity which thereby strengthens the fabric of the communities of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 214th Anniversary of Ecuadorian Independence Day on Thursday, August 10, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Ecuadorian Independence Day celebrates the independence from nearly three hundred years of Spanish rule on August 10, 1809; on this day Rebels in Quito declared "El Primer Grito de Independencia," the First Cry of Independence; and

WHEREAS, Although Ecuador had not gotten their full independence from Spain this day, it marked the first step and gave courage to other towns and villages to fight for their independence; and

WHEREAS, Ecuador was the first country in South America to declare their independence from Spanish rule, and reflects the start of other countries in South America beginning their fight toward independence; and

WHEREAS, Ecuadorian Independence Day is celebrated each year during the weekend following August 10; Ecuadorians show their pride by celebrating with the parades, concerts, and festivals across the country, with a heavy concentration of festivities around the "Plaza de Independencia," or Independence Plaza, in the capital of Quito; and

WHEREAS, Another location of celebration includes the "Palacio de Gobierno," Government Palace, where bands play Pasillo music as dancers perform in traditional costumes; a parade for the military forces is held and followed by an additional parade with bands, dance groups and pageant Queens and Princesses of Quito; after the parade, concerts, cultural performances and exhibits, games, food vendors, poultry, artisan and agricultural fairs are also part of the festivities; and

WHEREAS, In the smaller towns and provinces of Ecuador, festivities also take place by celebrating with their traditional music, parades, dancing, festivals, and by sharing communal meals with one another; and

WHEREAS, On August 10, 2021, Antony J. Blinken, Secretary of State, recognized Ecuador's National Day on behalf of the Government of the United States and the American people as Ecuador had celebrated their 212th Anniversary of Independence; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proud to acknowledge various cultures of people who add to the overall diversity of our State, and, on this occasion, we take the opportunity to recognize the contributions made by the Ecuadorian American community and extend best wishes to all of its members as they hold appropriate ceremonies to commemorate this historic milestone; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 214th Anniversary of Ecuadorian Independence Day on August 10, 2023; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Foreign Minister of Ecuador, Gustavo Manrique M., and various Ecuadorian organizations in New York.