

BY: Senator SUTTON

RECOGNIZING May 2026, as Jewish American Heritage
Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, The month of May has been proclaimed as Jewish American Heritage Month since 2006, and each year people across the Nation recognize and celebrate Jewish achievements and contributions to the United States; and

WHEREAS, For thousands of years, the Jewish people have proudly sustained their identity and traditions while persevering in the face of religious persecution, enslavement, expulsion, and the horrors of the Holocaust; and

WHEREAS, In search of religious tolerance and freedom from persecution, North America's first Jewish community was established in 1654; and

WHEREAS, Those first Jewish immigrants, fleeing the horrors of the Inquisition, were met with opposition by then Director-general of New Amsterdam, Peter Stuyvesant, who sought to expel them simply for being Jewish; and

WHEREAS, Despite that initial resistance, Jews have greatly contributed to the culture and history of New York while strengthening the fabric of society; and

WHEREAS, As educators, journalists, scientists, physicians, lawyers, artists, and humanitarians, Jewish Americans have made vital contributions to the development of our communities, academic institutions, civic organizations, and businesses; and

WHEREAS, Jewish Americans have continued their strong support for ending discrimination in voting, employment, public accommodation, and in society at large, by prominently participating in virtually every civil rights effort in the American experience; and

WHEREAS, This enduring commitment to civil rights is exemplified by Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel and his collaboration with Dr. Martin Luther King, who marched alongside each other from Selma to Montgomery in 1965; and

WHEREAS, Jewish American Heritage Month is an opportunity to remember and thank the many Jewish Americans who defend this nation's ideals as members of the United States Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, Jewish Americans today face a new wave of opposition as they first did upon their arrival to North America, yet they continue to persevere in the face of those threats; and

WHEREAS, In light of an often reemerging scourge of antisemitism in

America, expressed openly and violently, it is crucial that the history, heritage, and culture of Jewish Americans be fully known, understood, and valued; and

WHEREAS, New York City Police Department data shows that there has been a rise in antisemitism; and

WHEREAS, Antisemitism and hate in all its forms must unequivocally and unapologetically be condemned; and

WHEREAS, In order to properly recognize the diverse contributions and achievements of Jewish Americans as well as to preserve and protect their history and culture for generations to come, it is altogether proper and fitting that we take this opportunity to continue learning from Jewish heritage; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to recognize May 2026, as Jewish American Heritage Month in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York.