Assembly Resolution No. 563

BY: M. of A. Fall

COMMEMORATING Montenegro Day on June 3, 2025, and honoring the history, culture, and achievements of Montenegro

WHEREAS, Montenegro Day is an occasion to recognize and celebrate the rich history, cultural heritage, and achievements of the Montenegrin people; and

WHEREAS, Montenegro declared independence on June 3, 2006, following a historic referendum in which 55.5% of voters chose sovereignty, marking the peaceful dissolution of the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro; and

WHEREAS, Montenegro's history traces back to the medieval Duklja and Zeta states, evolving into the Prince-Bishopric of Montenegro in the 17th century, a unique system of governance that shaped its national identity; and

WHEREAS, The people of Montenegro have demonstrated resilience and determination in safeguarding their sovereignty and cultural traditions throughout history, overcoming centuries of challenges and conflicts; and

WHEREAS, Montenegro is home to UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including the Bay of Kotor and Durmitor National Park, reflecting its rich natural beauty, historical significance, and cultural legacy; and

WHEREAS, Since regaining independence, Montenegro has taken significant strides in democratic governance, economic development, and European integration, officially becoming a NATO member on June 5, 2017, and pursuing full membership in the European Union (EU); and

WHEREAS, The enduring partnership between Montenegro and the United States is based on mutual values, including democracy, economic cooperation, and security collaboration, strengthening ties between the two nations; and

WHEREAS, Montenegro has contributed to regional peace and stability in the Western Balkans, supporting dialogue, cooperation, and multilateral diplomacy; and

WHEREAS, New York State is home to a vibrant and thriving Montenegrin-American community that has contributed greatly to the social, cultural, and economic fabric of the state; and

WHEREAS, Montenegrin-Americans have made significant contributions to New York's diverse cultural landscape, particularly in areas such as arts, education, business, and community leadership, helping to foster greater cultural exchange and mutual understanding; and

WHEREAS, The State of New York has long been a place of refuge and opportunity for immigrants from all corners of the world, including those from Montenegro, and continues to benefit from the rich diversity brought by Montenegrin heritage; and

WHEREAS, Through organizations and cultural events, the Montenegrin-American community in New York continues to promote the preservation and celebration of their unique cultural traditions, while also actively participating in the broader societal development of the state; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting and appropriate to celebrate Montenegro Day in recognition of the deep ties between the State of New York and the people of Montenegro, as well as the ongoing contributions of Montenegrin-Americans to the state's success and prosperity; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pauses in its deliberations to commemorate Montenegro Day, recognizing its rich heritage, acknowledging its present achievements, and looking forward to its bright future, while also honoring the contributions of the Montenegrin-American community to the State of New York.