

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim Saturday, March 31, 2012 as Azerbaijani Remembrance Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, Every year since 1918, Azerbaijanis and many people around the globe observe March 31 as a Day of Remembrance, to honor the victims resulting from the fighting that began in March of 1918; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim Saturday, March 31, 2012 as Azerbaijani Remembrance Day in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, 93 years have passed since the genocide committed by the members of Armenian Dashnak party in concert with Bolsheviks against Azerbaijanis; and

WHEREAS, The massacre of about 20,000 innocent people - elderly, women and children started at the night of March 30, 1918; and

WHEREAS, Armenian Bolshevik troops led by Stepan Shaumyan massacred thousands of people, burnt Muslim shrines and confiscated the 400-million-manat estate of Baku residents; and

WHEREAS, Tezehir Mosque was bombed, and one of the magnificent architectural buildings, Ismailiyye, was burnt; and

WHEREAS, The genocide policy against Azerbaijanis was not limited to only Baku; Armenian dashnaks killed 8,027 Azerbaijanis, including 2,560 women and 1,277 children in 53 villages of Shamakhy on March 31; and

WHEREAS, 16,000 Azerbaijanis were murdered in 162 villages of Guba; Armenian Dashnaks burnt thousands of villages in Lenkeran, Mughan and Nagorno Karabakh and killed thousands of people; and

WHEREAS, Special Investigation Commission set up by Azerbaijan Democratic Republic on July 15, 1918, gathered a great deal of documents and submitted them to the government; and

WHEREAS, Azerbaijani parliament made a decision on marking March 31 as the day of Azerbaijani genocide in 1919; and

WHEREAS, Though this date was forgotten during the Soviet period, a lot of investigations on the tragedies committed on March 31, 1918, were carried out and books were published after Azerbaijan gained its independence; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim Saturday, March 31, 2012 as Azerbaijani Remembrance Day in the State of New York; and be it further

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