

**BY:** Senator PERALTA

**COMMEMORATING** 115 years of Panamanian Independence  
from Spain on November 3, 2018

**WHEREAS,** Prior to Spanish colonization, Panama was inhabited by the Cuevas and Coele tribes who were largely decimated by disease and fighting upon arrival of the Spanish in the 1500s; and

**WHEREAS,** The Spanish came to Panama in pursuit of gold and other valuables; the first to land in Panama was Rodrigo de Bastidas, and one year later, Christopher Columbus, who established a short-lived settlement in the Darien; and

**WHEREAS,** The first trans-Panamanian trek by Vasco Nunez de Balboa proved that the Isthmus was the path between the seas and would be for centuries to come; and

**WHEREAS,** Panama became the path for gold and silver which were hauled by ship from South America, by land across the Isthmus and then reshipped to Spain; this route became known as the Camino Real, the Royal Road, though it was more commonly known as the Road of the Crosses; and

**WHEREAS,** Panama would remain a part of the Spanish empire for more than 300 years and their identity would be based on the sense of "geographic destiny"; the Isthmus was of paramount importance to Spain and the rest of the world; and

**WHEREAS,** On November 28, 1821, Panama was liberated from Spain, but was assumed under Colombian rule; and

**WHEREAS,** Between 1880 and 1890, a French company under Ferdinand de Lesseps made an unsuccessful attempt to construct a sea-level canal where the U.S. developed canal now sits; and

**WHEREAS,** On November 3, 1903, Panama entered the Hay/Bunau-Varilla treaty with the United States which granted a significant right-of-way to a zone 10 miles wide and 50 miles long in which the canal was dredged, operated and fortified by U.S. forces; and

**WHEREAS,** Signing the November 3, 1903, treaty with the United States occurred parallel to a proclamation of separation from Colombia, known as "Separation Day" in Panama; Panama also celebrates the anniversary of their independence from Spain on November 28th; and

**WHEREAS,** Many Panamanians have made New York their home, and this Legislative Body is justly proud to thank the Panamanian people for their contributions to this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate 115 years of Panamanian Independence from Spain on November

3, 2018.