

BY: Senator HOYLMAN

COMMEMORATING the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots ("Stonewall"), a series of spontaneous demonstrations by members of the LGBTQ community that took place in the early morning hours on June 28, 1969, at the Stonewall Inn in New York City and led to the modern international LGBTQ human rights movement

WHEREAS, Stonewall, which was led by transgender and gender non-conforming people, lasted five nights and served as a galvanizing moment for the LGBTQ activist community to unite in a nationwide movement fighting for LGBTQ rights; and

WHEREAS, The dedication and persistence of activists ensured that the anniversary of Stonewall would become a day to memorialize, celebrate, and honor, with the organization of the first annual Pride march in 1970 commemorating one year of Stonewall; and

WHEREAS, It was the dedication of these activists that ensured that the memory of Stonewall would become a rallying cry for the emancipatory struggle of LGBTQ people across the world; and

WHEREAS, At the time of Stonewall, "soliciting homosexual relations" and wearing "gender-inappropriate dress" were considered crimes in New York and the majority of states, where punishment could include fines and imprisonment; and

WHEREAS, In such an environment of legalized hostility, Stonewall would become the genesis of the LGBTQ movement by serving as a common ground not only for gay and lesbian people but also for drag queens, transgender people, sex workers, and homeless youth; and

WHEREAS, Police officers would periodically raid the Stonewall Inn, harass patrons, and issue arrests for alleged "crimes"; and

WHEREAS, When one such raid occurred in the early morning hours of June 28, 1969, the patrons rose up to defend themselves; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the night a crowd numbering between 500 to 600 people demonstrated, sang protest songs, and took a stand for LGBTQ rights; and

WHEREAS, By 4:00 am the crowd dissipated, but the same could not be said of the emancipatory spirit awakened by the riots since the crowd returned the following four evenings to reassert their will to live in a world free from anti-LGBTQ harassment and hostility; and

WHEREAS, These protests unleashed a revolutionary power that inspired the global LGBTQ Pride movement and a new wave of activism with the founding of the Gay Liberation Front, the Gay Activists Alliance, as

well as new publications like Gay, Come Out!, and Gay Power; and

WHEREAS, The spirit of Pride and Stonewall is preserved today by the important work of those individuals and organizations working together across the world to commemorate the legacy of Stonewall's 50th Anniversary; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Stonewall Inn, New York City.