

**BY:** Senator JACKSON

**MEMORIALIZING** Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim February 2020, as Dominican Heritage Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with the commemoration of the 176th Anniversary of Dominican Independence

**WHEREAS,** It is the practice of this Legislative Body to commemorate historical events which exemplify the spirit and struggle of peoples throughout the world to achieve independence and live in peace and freedom; and

**WHEREAS,** Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim February 2020, as Dominican Heritage Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with the commemoration of the 175th Anniversary of Dominican Independence; and

**WHEREAS,** The year 2020 marks the 176th Anniversary of an independent Dominican state; and

**WHEREAS,** The Dominican people proudly trace their heritage back hundreds of years on the island of Hispaniola as indigenous Quisqueyanos; and

**WHEREAS,** Dominicans first arrived in the United States in 1613, with the arrival of Juan Rodriguez, who was also the very first immigrant to New York City; and

**WHEREAS,** Five thousand Dominicans arrived in New York City through Ellis Island at the turn of the 20th Century; and

**WHEREAS,** Dominicans are now the largest immigrant group in New York City and represent approximately 30 percent of the entire Latino population in the City of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** There are over two million Dominicans in the country and over one million live in New York State; and

**WHEREAS,** Dominicans represent the largest group of naturalized citizens of all immigrant populations in New York City; and

**WHEREAS,** Today, we recognize the numerous contributions of Dominicans and Dominican Americans to our great State adding to the cultural and economic vibrancy of New York; Dominican leaders contribute through music, literature, cuisine, fashion and design, film and television, stage work, sports, education, and government and politics; and

**WHEREAS,** Throughout history and up to today, the Dominican people on

the mainland and abroad have exhibited an everlasting sense of bravery in rising up against oppressors, with their national anthem exclaiming Quisqueyanos as "brave and indomitable"; and

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize those New Yorkers of Dominican descent for their enduring contributions to the educational, social, moral and economic principles that are so deeply ingrained in the fabric of our country and State; and

**WHEREAS,** The 176th Anniversary of the Independence of the Dominican Republic provides an opportunity to recognize the significance of their contributions to the quality and character of life, and, through events and activities, for all people to gain a greater appreciation of Dominican history and traditions, and of the role Dominicans have played, and will continue to play, in our society; and

**WHEREAS,** This Legislative Body is pleased to have this opportunity to recognize such events of significance which foster ethnic pride and exemplify the cultural diversity that represents and strengthens the fabric of the people and the State of New York; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim February 2020 as Dominican Heritage Month in the State of New York, in conjunction with the commemoration of the 176th Anniversary of Dominican Independence, and to publicly encourage the citizens of New York to celebrate the history and trajectory of Dominicans in the State, and to seek that New Yorkers of Dominican descent see themselves represented by government, their influence reflected on our streets, and their ties to the State strengthened; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York; and various Dominican organizations in New York State.