

Senate Resolution No. 793

BY: Senator SEPULVEDA

MEMORIALIZING Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 2019, as Russian American History Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, The history and participation of people of Russian heritage in the American experience will be greatly enhanced and appreciated through the observation of April 2019 as Russian American History Month in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Individuals of Russian heritage such as: Ivan Turchaninov, Union Army Brigadier General; Igor Sikorsky, inventor of the helicopter and the multi-engine airplane; Sergei Rachmaninoff and Igor Stravinsky, composers; Vladimir Zworikin, engineer and a pioneer of television technology; Nikolai Timashev, sociologist; Michael Chekhov, actor; Boris Backhmeteff, scientist and diplomat; Wasilly Leontiev, economist; Yul Bryner and Kirk Douglas, Hollywood legends; Serge Brin, co-founder and head of the Google Corporation; Irving Berlin, author of the song "God Bless America," Alexander Ovechkin, Captain, Washington Capitals, National Hockey League; Vladimir Zvorikin, physicist; and many others have made important contributions to the United States and the world; and

WHEREAS, The recognition of such significant contributions will enhance the opportunities for Russian American youth to take pride in their forebears and to identify with them as role models; and

WHEREAS, Better knowledge of the role of Russian Americans in the history of the United States and of relations between Russia and America can lead to more productive opportunities for all; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim April 2019, as Russian American History Month in the State of New York and to urge that during this month there be active efforts to examine the subject in public schools, colleges, universities and other venues and that events and activities supporting interest and attention to Russian American history and how Russian Americans have retained their cultural identity while contributing significantly to the enrichment of New York State and America be encouraged; 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; The Honorable Anatoly I. Antonov, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the United States; The Honorable Sergey K. Ovsyanikov, Consul General of the Russian Federation in New York; His Grace Matthew, Bishop of Sourozh, Interim Administrator the Patriarchal Parishes in USA; His Eminence Hilarion, Metropolitan of Eastern America and New York; Metropolitan Tikhon (Mollard), Orthodox Church in America; Dr. Olga Zatsepina, President of Russian American Cultural Heritage Center

Inc. (RACH-C) and Chair, Russian American History Month Coalition; Mr. John Pouschine, President, Russian Nobility Association in America (RNA); Mrs. Tatiana Zacharin- Geringer, Chief Scoutmaster of St. George Pathfinders (ORUR); and Mrs. Marena Maltsev, President American-Russian Aid Association, Otrada, Inc.