BY: Senator CLEARE

COMMEMORATING the 13th Anniversary of the Harlem Pride Celebration Day

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize the profound impact of those exemplary organizations and events within the great State of New York which proactively work toward the empowerment of minority communities, and the importance of such work which benefits all citizens of this State, and indeed, all citizens of the Nation, should be rightfully commended; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 13th Anniversary of the Harlem Pride Celebration Day on Saturday, June 25, 2022, in Harlem, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Harlem Pride Celebration Day is Harlem's only same gender loving (SGL), lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) festival; this year, more than 20,000 attendees are expected at this special event; and

WHEREAS, This momentous event will be hosted by Harlem Pride, the leading non-profit organization for SGL/LGBTQ individuals in Harlem, which was established in 2010 with the mission to empower Harlem's SGL/LGBTQ community, which includes, family, friends, and allies, to improve its physical, mental, and economic health and wellness; and

WHEREAS, While certainly an event steeped in celebration, this day also serves as an opportunity to disseminate information and provide services to Harlem Pride's constituents, including referrals for health, legal and financial services, and on-the-spot testing for communicable diseases; it also serves as a ripe opportunity to welcome and educate the community-at-large about their SGL/LGBTQ community; and

WHEREAS, This year's Harlem Pride Celebration Day's theme is "TheReturn," a nod to a great comeback after limitations presented due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Our society is greatly benefited by the purposeful efforts of individuals who unite for the cause of improving the quality of life for others, and who proactively work toward the goal of dignity for all; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 13th Anniversary of the Harlem Pride Celebration Day; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Harlem Pride.