

**BY:** M. of A. Ramos

**MEMORIALIZING** Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim  
May 12, 2021, as Taiwan Heritage Day in the State of  
New York

**WHEREAS,** The United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan) share common ideals and a clear vision for the 21st century, where freedom and democracy are the foundation for peace, prosperity, and progress; and

**WHEREAS,** The U.S. Congress passed the landmark Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) in 1979 to sustain a close bilateral relationship and to advance mutual security and commercial interests between the U.S. and Taiwan, and the TRA along with Six Assurances have served as cornerstones of U.S.-Taiwan relations and helped to preserve peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait; and

**WHEREAS,** In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, the United States and Taiwan signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on health cooperation in August 2020 to strengthen ongoing cooperation on global health security, control of infectious disease, and the development of drugs and vaccines, intended to battle the coronavirus and to prevent future international health crises through further collaborations; and

**WHEREAS,** The United States and Taiwan share a long-term and close economic relationship, including \$85 billion in bilateral trade in 2019, making Taiwan the 10th largest trading partner of the United States; and it is encouraged for the U.S. and Taiwan to further strengthen their bilateral trade and investment relationship by signing an Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement (ADTA) and a Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA); and

**WHEREAS,** The United States has assisted Taiwan in participating in the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), and will continue supporting Taiwan's meaningful participation in these and other organizations; and

**WHEREAS,** The State of New York exported \$898 million worth of products to Taiwan in 2019, making Taiwan the 18th largest foreign market for the State of New York; and the bilateral trade and investment have created over 10,000 jobs in the State of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** Many of the United States' top 500 companies headquartered in New York have invested in Taiwan, while more than 300 Taiwanese companies have invested in the State of New York, contributing to mutually beneficial relationship for decades; and

**WHEREAS,** Taiwan has signed mutual driver's license recognition pacts with 34 U.S. states since 2013, and more than 16,000 Taiwanese and American citizens have taken advantage of the above-mentioned pacts; and

**WHEREAS,** The State of New York is home to a thriving overseas ethnic Chinese community that supports the Republic of China (Taiwan), including the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA), the Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce of New York, Inc., the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of New York, Inc., and the Taiwanese American Association of New York, and that devotes itself to the harmony and development of 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 May 12, 2021, as Taiwan Heritage Day in the State of New York; 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; Tsai Ing-wen, President of the Republic of China (Taiwan); and James K. J. Lee, Ambassador of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in New York.