

Assembly Resolution No. 373

BY: M. of A. Glick

MEMORIALIZING Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim
June 2021, as Gay Pride Month in the State of New
York

WHEREAS, Members of this Legislative Body support the rights, freedoms, and equality of those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ); and

WHEREAS, Those who took a stand for human rights and dignity at the Stonewall Inn in New York City on June 28, 1969, are among the pioneers within this movement; this year marks the 52nd Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots; and

WHEREAS, The LGBTQ Stonewall protestors were subject to police harassment and invidious discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity and expression; and

WHEREAS, The Stonewall uprising and the LGBTQ movement included the contributions of many people of color like Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera, who brought attention to the continued struggle for the rights of transgender and gender non-conforming people; and

WHEREAS, This decisive moment in history was followed by the creation of gay rights organizations in every major city in the United States within two years of the Stonewall uprising; and

WHEREAS, The Stonewall uprising has been followed by many positive progressive historic moments; and

WHEREAS, One year after the Stonewall uprising, on June 28, 1970, the first gay pride marches took place in New York City, Los Angeles and San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, Each year, since the Stonewall uprising, the end of June has been celebrated as gay pride with LGBTQ pride marches and other events being held throughout New York State, and throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, A Marriage Equality Bill first passed the New York State Assembly in 2007; and

WHEREAS, The Marriage Equality Act passed both houses and was signed into law in New York State on June 24, 2011, making the state the sixth in the nation to do so; and

WHEREAS, The year 2012 marked the first year all 50 States in the United States had at least one openly LGBTQ elected official; and

WHEREAS, On June 26, 2013, New York State resident Edith Windsor, represented by Roberta Kaplan, won her case against the United States;

the Supreme Court ruled that section three of the Defense of Marriage Act was unconstitutional and the Federal Government cannot discriminate against married lesbian and gay couples for the purposes of determining Federal benefits and protections; and

WHEREAS, On June 26, 2015, the Supreme Court ruled that states cannot ban same-sex marriage; and

WHEREAS, On June 24, 2016, then President Barack Obama announced the designation of the first national monument to lesbian, gay, bisexual Transgender and queer (LGBTQ) rights; the Stonewall National Monument encompasses Christopher Park, the Stonewall Inn and the surrounding streets and sidewalks that were the sites of the 1969 Stonewall uprising; and

WHEREAS, On April 4, 2017, the 7th District Court of Appeals ruled that the Civil Rights Act prohibits workplace discrimination against LGBTQ employees, after Kimberly Hively sues Ivy Tech Community College for violating Title VII of the act by denying her employment; and

WHEREAS, On June 15, 2020, the United States Supreme Court affirmed that the 1964 Civil Rights Act protects LGBTQ Americans from discrimination in the workplace after Gerald Bostock, the late Aimee Stephens, and the late Donald Zarda, also a New Yorker, brought suit against their former employers when they were fired for identifying as either gay or transgender only after their employer was made aware of their gender or sexual identity despite positive job performance; and

WHEREAS, On January 25, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. signed the Executive Order Enabling All Qualified Americans to Serve Their Country in Uniform, which allows transgender Americans to openly serve in the military; and

WHEREAS, On February 2, 2021, the United States Senate confirmed Pete Buttigieg with 86 votes in favor as Secretary of Transportation, and is the first openly gay member of a Presidential Administration's Cabinet and is currently serving as the highest-ranking LGBTQ American in the Presidential line of succession; and

WHEREAS, The month of June reminds us of all the achievements of the past and highlights the work that remains to be done; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim June 2021, as Gay Pride Month in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York.