Senate Resolution No. 1007

BY: Senator MYRIE

RECOGNIZING June 28, 2023, as Steel Pan Day, in conjunction with the observance of National Caribbean-American Heritage Month

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay just tribute to the cultural heritage of the ethnic groups which comprise and contribute to the richness and diversity of the community of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to recognize June 28, 2023, as Steel Pan Day, in conjunction with the observance of National Caribbean-American Heritage Month; and

WHEREAS, The national instrument of Trinidad and Tobago, the sounds of the steel pan have always been synonymous with Caribbean culture, and is a source of great pride and true resilience for all its citizens; and

WHEREAS, When enslaved Africans were brought to Trinidad by colonialists in the 1700s, they brought over their African heritage and traditions of rhythmic drumming with them; when slavery was abolished between 1834 and 1838, Trinidadians joined in on Carnival festivities with their drums; and

WHEREAS, In the 1930s, the steel pan was originally made with metal objects, including car parts, paint pots, dustbins, oil drums, and biscuit tins; and

WHEREAS, On July 26, 1951, the Trinidad All-Steel Pan Percussion Orchestra (TASPO) performed at the Festival of Britain, and in doing so introduced the steel pan and a new music genre to the world; today, steel pans are enjoyed in concert halls like Royal Albert Hall, Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, and more; whether in the United Kingdom, Japan, Senegal, or the United States, the steel pan is an internationally recognized instrument that reminds listeners of its island origins; and

WHEREAS, Steel Pan Day was established in 2015 to acknowledge the impact of the steel pan, the only instrument invented in the 20th Century, which has greatly contributed to the music and culture of the Caribbean people; and

WHEREAS, Declared by Pan Trinbago, World Steelpan Day is on August 11th of every year; Steel Pan Day will be celebrated during National Caribbean-American Heritage Month in Prospect Park with caribBEING and Prospect Park Alliance; and

WHEREAS, In 2017, caribBEING spearheaded the naming of Little Caribbean to recognize, celebrate and foster the contributions of Caribbean-Americans in New York City and the neighborhood of Flatbush,

Brooklyn, as a center for culture, community and commerce; and

WHEREAS, caribBEING is an inclusive hub for creativity featuring artists and makers from Cuba, Guyana, Haiti, Guadeloupe, Grenada, Jamaica, Trinidad, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Martinique, France, Canada and others; and

WHEREAS, caribBEING is a multidisciplinary venture dedicated to show-casing Caribbean culture, art, and film in Greater New York City and around the world, where art, culture and lifestyle meet global Caribbean and LatinX heritage; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, this vital organization celebrates and amplifies Caribbean culture and lifestyle, supporting businesses, creating community, and documenting as well as creating culture; 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 recognize June 28, 2023, as Steel Pan Day, in conjunction with the observance of National Caribbean-American Heritage Month; and be it further

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