Assembly Resolution No. 539

BY: M. of A. Rajkumar

COMMEMORATING Pakistan Independence Day to be celebrated August 14, 2023

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 keeping with its time-honored traditions, it is the intent of this Legislative Body to commemorate Pakistan Independence Day to be celebrated August 14, 2023; and

WHEREAS, The Islamic Republic of Pakistan is an ally of this great State and Nation, sharing deep economic, social, and cultural ties; and

WHEREAS, August 14 is a national holiday in Pakistan, commemorating the day in 1947 when British Viceroy and Governor-General of India Louis Mountbatten ceremonially transferred power to Muhammad Ali Jinnah, ending centuries of British rule; and

WHEREAS, The transfer of sovereignty was the culmination of a decades-long Pakistan Movement for independence, with one of its most famed leaders being Jinnah, who is regarded as the Founder of Pakistan; and

WHEREAS, The Pakistan Movement had a profound impact around the world, inspiring multiple other independence movements; and

WHEREAS, New York City has a deep history of celebrating Pakistan's independence, hosting the annual Pakistan Independence Day Parade and Festival, the largest celebration of its kind in North America, along with multiple other celebrations across the city; and

WHEREAS, The United States is home to the largest Pakistani diaspora population in the Western Hemisphere, with over half a million people of Pakistani descent; and

WHEREAS, Pakistanis have a long history in America, beginning in the nineteenth century with people coming in large numbers from what is now Pakistan to work as laborers, followed by another major wave of immigration starting in the 1960s, when the United States reformed immigration policy; and

WHEREAS, Pakistani Americans have made immeasurable contributions to the arts, the STEM fields, business, philanthropy, academics, defense, sports, religion, and government; and

WHEREAS, Pakistani Americans contribute to all facets of life in New York City, home to about 50,000 people of Pakistani descent, living

predominantly in Brooklyn and Queens; and

WHEREAS, Pakistani American New Yorkers have left an indelible impression on their city, having increased in number by about 70 percent in the last decade, with the Pakistani national language of Urdu being one of the most commonly-spoken in the city; 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 commemorate Pakistan Independence Day to be celebrated August 14, 2023; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Consul General of Pakistan, and various Pakistani organizations in the State of New York.