

Senate Resolution No. 1931

**BY:** Senator COONEY

**MEMORIALIZING** Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 2026, as Sikh Heritage Month in the State of New York

**WHEREAS,** It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official months that honor the rich cultural, religious, and historical contributions of communities that strengthen the fabric of the State of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** The Sikh community has made lasting and meaningful contributions to the social, cultural, economic, and civic life of New York State and the United States; and

**WHEREAS,** Sikhism, founded in the Punjab region of South Asia more than 500 years ago by Guru Nanak Dev Ji, is the world's fifth-largest religion and is grounded in the principles of equality, service, compassion, justice, and devotion to one God; and

**WHEREAS,** Central to the Sikh faith is the practice of seva, or selfless service, demonstrated through volunteerism, charitable giving, disaster relief efforts, and the operation of community kitchens known as langar, which provide free meals to all people regardless of background or circumstance; and

**WHEREAS,** Sikh Americans have served with distinction in every profession, including public service, healthcare, education, business, law enforcement, transportation, and the armed forces; and

**WHEREAS,** New York is home to a vibrant and growing Sikh population whose gurdwaras, organizations, and families continue to enrich communities across the State through faith, culture, and civic engagement; and

**WHEREAS,** Despite these many contributions, Sikh individuals have too often faced discrimination, bias, and misunderstanding, making education and awareness all the more important; and

**WHEREAS,** Designating April as Sikh Heritage Month provides an opportunity to celebrate Sikh history and traditions, promote greater understanding, and honor the many achievements of Sikh New Yorkers; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 2026, as Sikh Heritage Month in the State of New York; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York; and Sikh organizations and community leaders throughout the New

York State.