

Senate Resolution No. 2143

**BY:** Senator SUTTON

**RECOGNIZING** May 2026, as Jewish American Heritage  
Month in the State of New York

**WHEREAS,** The month of May has been proclaimed as Jewish American Heritage Month since 2006, and each year people across the Nation recognize and celebrate Jewish achievements and contributions to the United States; and

**WHEREAS,** For thousands of years, the Jewish people have proudly sustained their identity and traditions while persevering in the face of religious persecution, enslavement, expulsion, and the horrors of the Holocaust; and

**WHEREAS,** In search of religious tolerance and freedom from persecution, North America's first Jewish community was established in 1654; and

**WHEREAS,** Those first Jewish immigrants, fleeing the horrors of the Inquisition, were met with opposition by then Director-general of New Amsterdam, Peter Stuyvesant, who sought to expel them simply for being Jewish; and

**WHEREAS,** Despite that initial resistance, Jews have greatly contributed to the culture and history of New York while strengthening the fabric of society; and

**WHEREAS,** As educators, journalists, scientists, physicians, lawyers, artists, and humanitarians, Jewish Americans have made vital contributions to the development of our communities, academic institutions, civic organizations, and businesses; and

**WHEREAS,** Jewish Americans have continued their strong support for ending discrimination in voting, employment, public accommodation, and in society at large, by prominently participating in virtually every civil rights effort in the American experience; and

**WHEREAS,** This enduring commitment to civil rights is exemplified by Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel and his collaboration with Dr. Martin Luther King, who marched alongside each other from Selma to Montgomery in 1965; and

**WHEREAS,** Jewish American Heritage Month is an opportunity to remember and thank the many Jewish Americans who defend this nation's ideals as members of the United States Armed Forces; and

**WHEREAS,** Jewish American Heritage Month is also a time to honor the enduring connection between Jewish Americans and the land of Israel; a connection sustained through millennia of diaspora with prayer and tradition; and

**WHEREAS,** Jewish Americans today face a new wave of opposition as they first did upon their arrival to North America, yet they continue to persevere in the face of those threats; and

**WHEREAS,** In light of an often reemerging scourge of antisemitism in America, expressed openly and violently, it is crucial that the history, heritage, and culture of Jewish Americans be fully known, understood, and valued; and

**WHEREAS,** New York City Police Department data showed that anti-Jewish hate crimes increased by 182 percent in January 2026, compared to January 2025; and

**WHEREAS,** In response to this rise in antisemitism in New York and across America, we must unequivocally and unapologetically condemn this hatred in all its forms; and

**WHEREAS,** In order to properly recognize the diverse contributions and achievements of Jewish Americans as well as to preserve and protect their history and culture for generations to come, it is altogether proper and fitting that we take this opportunity to continue learning from Jewish heritage; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to recognize May 2026, as Jewish American Heritage 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 Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York.