

Senate Resolution No. 511

BY: Senator FERNANDEZ

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 13, 2025, as Yemeni American Heritage Day in the State of New York

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 memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 13, 2025, as Yemeni American Heritage Day in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Yemeni heritage is a rich and diverse blend of cultural, historical, and social experiences with ancient roots dating back over 2,000 years; and

WHEREAS, Yemeni Americans proudly connect with their Islamic heritage and preserve customs such as traditional clothing, cuisine, music, and dance; and despite facing challenges like racism, Islamophobia, and xenophobia, the Yemeni community has demonstrated remarkable resilience and adaptability, making significant contributions to American society; and

WHEREAS, The Yemeni American community reflects the diverse religious and cultural makeup of Yemen itself-which historically includes both Muslim and Jewish populations who have lived in Yemen for centuries and contributed to its rich cultural traditions; and

WHEREAS, In the Bronx, Yemeni Americans have played a vital role in shaping the borough's cultural identity; they have introduced traditional Yemeni cuisine, such as saltah and mandhi, to the local food scene, and have established cultural events, like the annual Yemeni American Day Parade which celebrates their heritage and contributions to the community; and

WHEREAS, Additionally, entrepreneurs from the Little Yemen neighborhood have revitalized commercial areas such as Morris Park Avenue and White Plains Road and have created countless opportunities for economic growth and development; and

WHEREAS, Through their profound and impactful contributions, members of the Yemeni community have become an integral part of the Bronx's diverse cultural tapestry, and as a result, have also enriched the greater State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Yemeni Americans have made lasting impacts across multiple fields, driving economic growth, advancing healthcare, enriching education, and championing social justice; through their

innovative spirit, expertise, and dedication, they have strengthened American society and fostered a more vibrant and diverse community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 13, 2025, as Yemeni American Heritage Day in the State of New York.