

Assembly Resolution No. 1118

BY: M. of A. Chludzinski

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim
April 6, 2026, as Dyngus 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 proclaim April 6, 2026, as Dyngus Day in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, A Polish-American tradition, Dyngus Day celebrates the end of the observance of Lent and the joy of Easter; over the decades, Dyngus Day has become a holiday to celebrate Polish-American culture, heritage, and traditions; and

WHEREAS, Many Polish customs date back to pre-Christian, Slavic practices; the custom of pouring water is an ancient spring rite of cleansing, purification, and fertility; the same is true of the complimentary practice of switching with pussy willow branches; and

WHEREAS, Since 966 A.D., Dyngus Day has been associated with the baptism of Prince Mieszko I; tradition states that Prince Mieszko I, along with his court, were baptized on Easter Monday; and

WHEREAS, Dyngus Day and its rites of sprinkling with water have become a folk celebration which gives thanks for the fact that the first king of Poland was baptized into Christianity, bringing Catholicism to Poland; and

WHEREAS, In the modern era, the tradition continued when farm boys in Poland wanted to attract notice from the girls of their choice; it was customary to throw water and hit the girls on their legs with twigs or pussy willows; and

WHEREAS, The ladies would reciprocate by throwing dishes and crockery, with Tuesday being their day of revenge, imitating the same tactics, however, at modern Dyngus Day parties, it is common practice that both men and women trade water and pussy willow taps equally; and

WHEREAS, Buffalo, New York is officially the Dyngus Day capital of America, hosting the largest concentration of festival locations, polka bands and Polish traditions in the nation; and

WHEREAS, This year marks the 20th Annual Dyngus Day Parade in Buffalo's Historic Polonia District which will feature some of the biggest names in polka and authentic Polish folk music, bands like Maestros Men, and performers like 18 time Grammy award winner Jimmy

Sturr with special guests IPA Hall of Fame members Johnny Karas and Al Piatkowski, Chris Caffery of Trans-Siberian Orchestra, along with dozens of other bands, entertainers and folk dance troupes; and

WHEREAS, The Dyngus Day Parade consists of floats resembling medieval ships, fire trucks with sirens blazing and hoses squirting, polka bands blaring, and families sharing memories and laughter as they stroll through the neighborhood tossing candy and beads to the families gathered on the curbs; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the parade, numerous venues throughout the region, including church halls, family-owned restaurants, taverns, social clubs and tented festival grounds will be offering traditional live entertainment, delicious Polish cuisine, Tyskie polish beer, colorful folk troupes, and of course, plenty of polka dancing; and

WHEREAS, The City of Buffalo and its suburbs are home to the greatest concentration of Polish-Americans in the nation, showcasing the rich cultural heritage and pride that is synonymous with the identity of America and New York at large; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 6, 2026, as Dyngus Day 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 New York.