

Assembly Resolution No. 1375

**BY:** M. of A. Rules (Solages)

**MEMORIALIZING** Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 18, 2026, as Haitian Flag Day in the State of New York

**WHEREAS,** It is the custom and long-standing tradition of this Legislative Body to recognize official days, set aside to celebrate the spirit and culture of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** Haitian Flag Day is an annual celebration commemorating when the newly independent country's flag was raised for the first time on May 18, 1803, in conjunction with Haiti's national holiday; and

**WHEREAS,** Jean-Jacques Dessalines, removed the white band from the French flag during the Arcahaie Congress on May 18, 1803, creating the very first Haitian Flag; and

**WHEREAS,** The flag has seen several iterations over the course of the country's history, but the traditional blue and red band flag remains the symbol of the country; and

**WHEREAS,** At the center of the flag rests the country's coat of arms adorned with the Phrygian hat or liberty cap, placed on a white square background; and

**WHEREAS,** The flag's inscription, "L'union fait la force" or "Strength in unity," very clearly represents Haiti's struggle for liberation and the means by which it gained independence; and

**WHEREAS,** Haiti is the first country to ever liberate itself from slavery through a successful uprising of enslaved Black people under the military leadership of Francois Toussaint L'Ouverture, and alliance between Jean-Jacques Dessalines, chief of the Black rebels, and Alexandre PÚtion, leader of the mulattos; and

**WHEREAS,** The Haitian revolution was a major turning point in the history of the world with repercussions extending far beyond the Caribbean nation; and

**WHEREAS,** Haiti, located less than 700 miles from the United States of America, is the second nation in the Western Hemisphere, after the United States, to earn its independence, and has, since 1803, stood as a beacon of freedom as the first Black-governed republic in the world; and

**WHEREAS,** New York State has received thousands of Haitian immigrants for centuries and currently has one of the largest populations of Haitian people in the country; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 18, 2026, 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.