Assembly Resolution No. 1464

**BY:** M. of A. Forrest

**COMMEMORATING** the 64th Anniversary of the Independence of Jamaica

**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 keeping with its time-honored traditions, it is the intent of this Legislative Body to commemorate the 64th Anniversary of the Independence of Jamaica; and

**WHEREAS,** The celebration of Jamaican independence affirms the culture, identity and self-esteem of a people; it honors a rich heritage and illuminates Jamaican history and tradition, as well as the spirit of an indomitable people; and

**WHEREAS,** The people of this great State and Nation and Jamaica enjoy a deep and abiding relationship rooted in kinship and culture, and many New Yorkers proudly trace their own roots to Jamaica; and

**WHEREAS,** The State of New York is home to one of the largest and most vibrant Jamaican-American communities in the United States, whose members have made enduring contributions to the economic strength, cultural vitality, and civic life of communities throughout the State; and

**WHEREAS,** Jamaican New Yorkers have distinguished themselves in every field of endeavor, including public service, education, healthcare, labor, business, the arts, and community leadership, thereby enriching the social and cultural fabric of the State of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** In the ancient past, Jamaica, West Indies, was known as "Xaymaca" which when literally translated means Land of Wood and Water or the Land of Springs; and

**WHEREAS,** Every year August 6th is celebrated as Independence Day in Jamaica; the country acquired its independence from the British colonial powers on August 6, 1962, after years of political subjugation; initially a Spanish territory, Jamaica was soon taken over by the British in the 17th Century; and

**WHEREAS,** Jamaica was discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1494 and proclaimed as a territory of Spain; in the 17th Century, Jamaica came under the control of the British following an expedition by General Robert Venables and Admiral Sir William Penn; the Spanish were over-thrown by a strong British force that established its control over the island; and

**WHEREAS,** In a span of a couple of centuries, the conflict between

the colonizers and the colonized was extreme; Jamaica was made a Crown Colony on August 1, 1834, and it managed to acquire a certain degree of political autonomy in the 1940s; and

**WHEREAS,** Jamaica attained its independence on August 6, 1962, and is a member of the British Commonwealth; and

**WHEREAS,** The 64th Anniversary of Jamaica's Independence provides an opportunity to recognize the significance of their contributions to the quality and character of life, and, through events and activities, for all people to gain a greater appreciation of Jamaican history and traditions, and of the role Jamaicans have played, and will continue to play, in our society; and

**WHEREAS,** This Legislative Body is pleased to have this opportunity to recognize such events of significance which foster ethnic pride and exemplify the cultural diversity that represents and strengthens the fabric of the people and the State of New York; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 64th Anniversary of the Independence of Jamaica.