

Assembly Resolution No. 1533

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

**MEMORIALIZING** Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim July 26, 2026, as the inaugural Kompa Day in the State of New York

**WHEREAS,** Kompa Day has been an annual celebration in New York City dedicated to recognizing Haitian Kompa music and its impact on the city's cultural life; and

**WHEREAS,** New York State is home to vibrant Haitian communities in New York City, Long Island, Westchester, Rockland, and throughout the Hudson Valley, whose cultural traditions and artistic contributions continue to strengthen the social and economic fabric of the State; and

**WHEREAS,** Haitian-owned businesses, musicians, artists, and cultural organizations across the State of New York have helped preserve and promote Kompa music through concerts, festivals, educational programs, and community celebrations that enrich the State's diverse cultural landscape; and

**WHEREAS,** The word "Kompa" is adopted from the Spanish language word "compas" which means rhythm or measure as in a musical measure; and

**WHEREAS,** Kompa music originated in the 1950s by musician and maestro Nemours Jean-Baptiste and his band Conjunto International when they began adapting traditional Haitian sounds into a new dance music style; and

**WHEREAS,** The traditional Kompa sound features the beats of the tanbou, a Haitian barrel drum, sounds associated with big band style of music including saxophones, trumpets, and trombones, and an upbeat, danceable style of song; and

**WHEREAS,** Modern day kompa or nouvelle generation features electronic sounds like synthesizers and drum machines and incorporates other genres of music such as hip hop and reggae; and

**WHEREAS,** Kompa music has had international impacts with the genre spreading throughout the Caribbean and inspiring the creation of new genres such as cadence-lypso in the Dominican Republic; and

**WHEREAS,** Kompa music continues to play an important role in cultural events, parades, festivals, and celebrations throughout New York State, bringing together people of all backgrounds through music, dance, and shared heritage; and

**WHEREAS,** Kompa music is on track to be included on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity list; and

**WHEREAS,** New York has one of the largest populations of Haitian

people in the country, and the cultural contributions of Haitian people are woven into the fabric of our state adding vibrancy and color; and

**WHEREAS,** Given the significance of this culture, this celebration should extend beyond New York City; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim July 26, 2026, as the inaugural Konpa Day in the State of New York; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York.