Assembly Resolution No. 590

BY: M. of A. Lucas

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim November 3, 2025, as Panamanian Heritage Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the commemoration of the anniversary of Panamanian Independence Day

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and commemorate significant historical events and the rich cultural traditions of the diverse communities that contribute to the heritage and vibrancy of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim November 3, 2025, as Panamanian Heritage Day, also known as Separation Day, in honor of the Republic of Panama's declaration of independence from Colombia on November 3, 1903; and

WHEREAS, Panama, formerly a part of Colombia since 1821, sought to assert its autonomy and self-determination, and through peaceful means, declared its independence on November 3, 1903, a milestone event that paved the way for the establishment of the sovereign nation of Panama; and

WHEREAS, 100,000 Caribbean men and women arrived to work and build the Panama Canal, contributing to the vitality of the waterway that would go on to transform global commerce and maritime navigation; and

WHEREAS, Although Colombia initially resisted the recognition of Panamanian sovereignty, diplomatic efforts ultimately led to Colombia formally recognizing Panama's independence in 1909; and

WHEREAS, November 3rd is now celebrated in Panama and by Panamanian communities around the world as Separation Day, a day of patriotic pride, national reflection, and cultural celebration; and

WHEREAS, The State of New York is home to a vibrant and growing Panamanian-American community, whose cultural, civic, economic, and social contributions greatly enrich the life of this State; and

WHEREAS, The celebration of Panamanian Independence Day offers an opportunity to reflect on the nation's enduring legacy, honor its cultural traditions, and recognize the strength and unity of the Panamanian people, both in their homeland and throughout the diaspora, especially here in New York State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim November 3, 2025, as Panamanian Heritage Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the commemoration of the anniversary of Panamanian Independence Day; and

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York and representatives of the Panamanian-American community in New York State.