

## 2023-K2444

Assembly Resolution No. 2444

BY: M. of A. Rules (Reyes)

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim December 16, 2024, as Bangladesh Victory Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the people of this State acknowledge significant days of historical importance; Victory Day in Bangladesh is such an event; and

WHEREAS, The Liberation War, also known as the Bangladesh War of Independence, began after the Pakistani military junta based in West Pakistan launched Operation Searchlight against the people of East Pakistan on the night of March 25, 1971; and

WHEREAS, The war ended on December 16, 1971, after West Pakistan surrendered and Bangladesh sent them back to their country by expressing a spirit of generosity and forgiveness; and

WHEREAS, Victory Day is a national holiday in Bangladesh, celebrated on December 16th each year to commemorate the victory of the allied forces over the Pakistani forces in the Bangladesh Liberation War; and

WHEREAS, The Commanding Officer of the Pakistani Forces, General AAK Niazi, surrendered to the Allied Forces Commander, General Jagjit Singh Aurora of Bangladesh, which marked the end of the nine-month-long Bangladesh Liberation War and the 1971 official secession of East

Pakistan into Bangladesh; and

WHEREAS, Bangladesh Victory Day is observed as a national holiday; the country's government begins the day with 31 rounds of gunfire at sunrise, and

WHEREAS, Special prayers at all Armed Forces Mosques for peace and advancement of the nation and the continuous progress of Armed Forces are employed on this special day; and

WHEREAS, It is custom for the Honorable President and Prime Minister to pay their respects at the National Mausoleum and memorial of the martyrs of the Liberation War on this day annually; and

WHEREAS, The total number of lives lost as a cause of the Bangladesh Liberation War, both military and civilian, is estimated to fall in the range of 500,000 to 3 million; these casualties serve as a reminder of the cost of freedom, urging the beneficiaries of said freedom to never take it for granted; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proud to acknowledge various cultures and practices of people who add to the overall diversity of our State, and, on this occasion, we take the opportunity to recognize the contributions made by the Bangladesh-American community and extend best wishes to all its members as they hold appropriate ceremonies to commemorate this important day; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim December 16, 2024, as Bangladesh Victory 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.