

2013-J693

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 25, 2013, as Greek Independence Day in New York State

WHEREAS, The year 2013 will mark the 192nd Anniversary of Greek Independence; and

WHEREAS, With the capture of the City of Constantinople, a living symbol of Greek Glory, the Greek people were to endure four centuries of foreign rule under the Ottoman Empire; and

WHEREAS, Rhigas Pheraios, the Poet of the Revolution, a voice which spoke to the conscience of the Greek people, expressed their feelings in his War Hymn: "How long, my heroes, shall we live in bondage ... seeing our children turned from the land to bitter enslavement?"; and

WHEREAS, On March 25, 1821, Bishop Germanos, the Metropolitan of Patras, raised the standard of revolt at the Monastery of Aghia Lavra, and the struggle for liberation from cultural deprivation and lack of national identity was begun; and

WHEREAS, This courageous struggle inspired and moved people in Europe and the United States to compassionate expressions of support; and

WHEREAS, After a seven-year war and a long struggle to reach a peace treaty, the people of Hellas were victorious ... Greece was, in 1830, finally recognized as an Independent State; and

WHEREAS, New York has been blessed in many ways, but a tangible asset to the State and City of New York is the presence of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America; it is a moral compass which provides ethical guidance throughout the hemisphere from its Manhattan headquarters; and

WHEREAS, Another great asset is the Federation of Hellenic-American Societies of Greater New York, which continues to play an important leadership role within the Greek community; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that we should take

note of those citizens in this great Empire State who are of Hellenic descent and who have unstintingly contributed to the educational, social, moral and economic values so beloved by the people of the State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim March 25, 2013, as Greek Independence Day in New York State, and to publicly encourage the citizens of New York to reflect upon the contributions of our Greek community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, and to His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church of America.