

2013-J2635

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating the people of Pakistan upon the occasion of their first successful transition from one democratically-elected government to another, on May 11, 2013

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize significant events which represent turning points in history and which have a profound impact on the unfolding of our great Nation, as well as the lives of residents within this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate the people of Pakistan upon the occasion of their first successful transition from one democratically-elected government to another, on May 11, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Pakistan is the world's fifth largest democracy, and the world's second largest Muslim democracy after Indonesia; and

WHEREAS, General elections were held in Pakistan on May 11, 2013, to elect the members of the 14th National Assembly and to the four provincial assemblies of Punjab, Sindh, Baluchistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; the elections took place in 272 constituencies, whilst a further 70 seats were awarded to parties having been reserved for women and minority groups; and

WHEREAS, Held in all four provinces, the federal capital territory of Islamabad, and in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas, this historic election marks the first civilian transfer of power following the successful completion of a five year term by a democratically-elected government in Pakistan; and

WHEREAS, President Barack Obama declared that the United States stands with all Pakistanis in welcoming this historic peaceful and transparent transfer of civilian power, which is a significant milestone in

Pakistan's democratic progress; and

WHEREAS, New York State is the proud home of many Pakistani Americans and immigrants, with the New York metropolitan area hosting the largest Pakistani population of any region in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Pakistani Americans and immigrants have shaped the economy, culture and character of New York State; this vibrant community is well represented in the fields of medicine, engineering, finance and information technology, as well as in the local economies of many of our cities and towns through markets, restaurants and small businesses; and

WHEREAS, The successful transfer of civilian authority in Pakistan reaffirms our own commitment to the democratic process, and our unshakable faith in the principles of government of the people, by the people, for the people; and

WHEREAS, Through their long and sustained journey towards freedom, the people of Pakistan have so heroically advanced that spirit of united purpose and shared concern which is the unalterable manifestation of our shared humanity; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate the people of Pakistan upon the occasion of their first successful transition from one democratically-elected government to another.