

2013-K745

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the observance of the Anniversary of the Restoration of Lithuania's Independence on February 16, 1918 and the Anniversary of the Restoration of the Independence of Lithuania on March 11, 1990

WHEREAS, Throughout our nation's history, Americans have stood in solidarity with the people of other nations who have fought for their independence and for the cause of freedom; and

WHEREAS, In keeping with this tradition, this Legislative Body has long been justly proud to join these nations in the celebration of milestones in their history and is pleased to commemorate, on February 11, 2014, Lithuania's observance of the Anniversary of the Restoration of its Independence on February 16, 1918 and also the Anniversary of the Restoration of its Independence on March 11, 1990; and

WHEREAS, Lithuanians belong to the Baltic group of nations; its tradition of statehood dates from the early Middle Ages; in 1905, Lithuania was the first of what had become Russian provinces to demand autonomy; independence was not granted but the demand was not abandoned; and

WHEREAS, World War I led to the collapse of the Russian and German Empires, making it possible for Lithuania to assert its statehood and, on February 16, 1918, Lithuania declared its full independence and still celebrates that day as its Independence Day; and

WHEREAS, Two million Lithuanian-American citizens reside throughout the United States and have excelled in many fields including government, business, entertainment and athletics, and have attained well-deserved acclaim for their many achievements; and

WHEREAS, New York State is home to a large and thriving Lithuanian community, many of whom have made significant contributions to our great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize the great contributions Lithuanian-Americans have brought to our State and Nation, to pay tribute to all Lithuanians who struggled for peace in their homeland, and to wish the Lithuanian-American Community continued success in its purposeful endeavors; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate, on February 11, 2014, the observance of the Anniversary of the Restoration of Lithuania's Independence on February 16, 1918 and of the Anniversary of the Restoration of the Independence of Lithuania on March 11, 1990; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Valdemaras Sarapinas, Consul General of the Consulate General of the Republic of Lithuania.