

2013-K1322

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim June 2014 as Russian Heritage Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim June 2014 as Russian Heritage Month in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of this auspicious event, the Russian American Foundation has been conducting the Annual Russian Heritage Festival since 2002; the Festival aims to encourage interest in and understanding of Russian Heritage among all communities in the United States as well as to promote reciprocal interest in American heritage among global communities of the former Soviet Union; and

WHEREAS, The Russian Heritage Festival, which runs from June 1 to 30, 2014, has become a unifying force of the whole Russian-speaking community, allowing its members from across the former Soviet Union to preserve their heritage, culture and language and express their cultural identity, as well as facilitating a cultural dialog between all generations of the Russian-speaking community and instilling pride in their heritage in young Russian-speaking Americans; and

WHEREAS, This year, the Russian Heritage Festival observes the 12th Anniversary, proving its significance for the Russian-speaking community as well as for all communities of New York; and

WHEREAS, The 12th Anniversary Russian Heritage Festival will include numerous honorees: H.E. Dr. Kairat Umarov, Alexander Levin, David Hallberg, Boaz Vaadia, and the Russian American Officers Association; and

WHEREAS, The great State of New York is made greater by the diverse heritage of its people; and

WHEREAS, The history and participation of people of Russian heritage in the American experience is not generally known; and

WHEREAS, Such Americans of Russian heritage as Union Army Brigadier General Ivan Turchaninov; inventors, Vladimir Zvorykin (of television) and Igor Sikorsky (of the helicopter and the multi-engine airplane); composers, Sergei Rachmaninoff and Igor Stravinsky; Hollywood legends, Yul Brynner, Kirk Douglas and Natalie Wood, and contemporary stars, Natalie Portman and Winona Ryder; dance legends, George Balanchine, Mikhail Baryshnikov and Alexandra Danilova; science fiction luminary, Isaac Asimov; Google co-founder, Sergey Brin and political advisor, David Axelrod; famed songwriter, Irving Berlin, author of "God Bless America," and many others who have made important contributions to the development of our Nation; and

WHEREAS, Recognizing these outstanding individuals gives future generations the opportunity to see them as role models and take full pride in their ancestors' accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Improved knowledge of the role Russian Americans have played in the history of the United States, and of relations between Russia and America, can lead to more productive opportunities for both, now as well as in the future; and

WHEREAS, Russian Americans have made an indelible impression upon every human endeavor in art, music, literature, science, film, dance, theater, sports, education, law, finance, and politics and shall continue to embellish New York's shining future, reflecting the noble past of this mighty race, with all the strength, resilience, humor and hospitality of the Russian character; it is most fitting to set aside this month to highlight and honor the history and heritage of the Russian Americans and to remember and pay tribute to the contributions they have made to our State and Nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim June 2014, as Russian Heritage Month in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be tran-

mitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York.