

## 2015-K140

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION celebrating the many contributions and legacies of Dominican-Americans, in conjunction with the observance of Dominican Heritage Month, and paying tribute to Pedro Martinez

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body, in keeping with its time-honored traditions, to recognize and pay tribute to those who foster ethnic pride and enhance the profile of cultural diversity which strengthens the fabric of the communities of New York State; and

WHEREAS, The citizens of this great Empire State are proud to celebrate the contributions of Dominican-Americans to New York State's unique heritage; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to celebrate the many contributions and legacies of Dominican-Americans, in conjunction with the observance of Dominican Heritage Month, and to pay tribute to Pedro Martinez; and

WHEREAS, In February 2015, Dominican communities across the State of New York will join in celebrating Dominican Heritage Month by recognizing the many contributions and legacies which are attributed to these fine Dominican-Americans; and

WHEREAS, The following dates and events are of great significance and serve as a distinct reminder of the rich heritage celebrated in Dominican communities: Monday, January 26, 2015, marks the 202nd Anniversary of the birth of patriarch Juan Pablo Duarte; and Friday, February 27, 2015, is the 171st Anniversary of the independence of the Dominican Republic; and

WHEREAS, It is duly fitting that all New Yorkers join in these important celebrations of one of our State's most vibrant communities; this much anticipated observance and its accompanying activities will foster

greater appreciation for Dominican culture and serve to promote the spirit of cooperation that is characteristic of all citizens of New York State; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those esteemed individuals who distinguish themselves through exceptional performance, outstanding achievement, and peerless commitment to excellence; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Pedro Martinez upon the occasion of his election to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York, on January 6, 2015; he will be officially inducted on Sunday, July 26, 2015; and

WHEREAS, Pedro Jaime Martinez was born in Manoguayabo, Dominican Republic, in 1971, the fifth of six siblings living in a palm wood house with a tin roof; as a child, he learned the game of baseball using broomsticks and tree branches for bats; and

WHEREAS, Despite his humble circumstances and diminutive frame, Pedro Martinez's superlative work ethic and transcendent talent caught the eye of traveling professional scouts and subsequently, in 1988, he was signed by the Los Angeles Dodgers; and

WHEREAS, Pedro Martinez is recognized for being one of the most dominant pitchers of his era; and

WHEREAS, During a spectacular 18 season career, Pedro Martinez won 219 games, three Cy Young Awards and struck out 3,154 batters; he led the league in ERA five times and in strikeouts three times; furthermore, his winning percentage is sixth highest of all-time and first for pitchers after 1950; and

WHEREAS, In the year 2000, when there were more runs scored than in any other season in baseball history, Pedro Martinez managed an astounding 1.74 ERA; and

WHEREAS, Known for his sparkling intellect, unique wit, and engaging personality, Pedro Martinez's career has brought pride, pleasure and joy

to countless millions; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proud to honor Pedro Martinez for his extraordinary athletic accomplishments which are a tribute to his skill, dedication and commitment; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to celebrate the many contributions and legacies of Dominican-Americans, in conjunction with the observance of Dominican Heritage Month, and to pay tribute to Pedro Martinez; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Ambassador Anibal de Castro; Consul General Maximo Corsino of the Dominican Republic in New York; and Pedro Martinez.