

## 2015-K829

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim July 2015 as Lebanese-American Heritage Month in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to those organizations of true purpose and worthy accomplishment which foster a spirit of community and service and, simultaneously, work diligently to preserve their rich cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its longstanding traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim July 2015 as Lebanese-American Heritage Month in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Lebanese Americans are Americans of Lebanese descent; this includes both those who are native to the United States as well as Lebanese immigrants to America; and

WHEREAS, Lebanese Americans are the largest group of people with origins from Arab countries in America, comprising 0.79% of the American population as of the American Community Survey estimations for year 2007, and 32.4% of all Americans who originate from Arab countries; and

WHEREAS, Lebanese Americans have historically excelled in business, academia, arts and entertainment and have had a significant participation in American politics and social and political activism; and

WHEREAS, Lebanese Americans are one of the most successful groups in the United States, and are part of a diaspora often speaking many languages including French, Arabic, Portuguese, Italian and English, for historical reasons; Lebanon has seen a mingling of many religions including Maronite Catholicism, Greek Orthodoxy, and Sunni and Shia Islam, and there was a diaspora to many different countries around the world; and

WHEREAS, Since coming to America, Lebanese have made tremendous contributions to all sectors of our society, such as law, government, the visual and performing arts, business, and academia, as well as medicine and science; and

WHEREAS, The State of New York has always been richer, culturally and socially, as a result of many contributions of its vibrant Lebanese American community; New York is also fortunate to have in its midst a substantial number of citizens who trace their origins to Lebanon; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body salutes all of the individuals, past and present, who have given their time to this worthy event, noting their commitment to enhance and improve the quality of life in their community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim July 2015 as Lebanese-American Heritage Month in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York.