

RESOLUTION NO. 239

DESIGNATING MAY 2018 AS “JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH” IN ALBANY COUNTY

Introduced: 5/14/18

By Messrs. Fein, A Joyce, Feeney, Beston, Bullock, Ms. Chapman, Messrs. Clay, Clenahan, Commisso, Ms. Cunningham, Messrs. Dawson, Domalewicz, Ethier, Higgins, R. Joyce, Ms. Lekakis, Mr. Mayo, Mss. McKnight, McLean Lane, Messrs. Miller, O'Brien, Ms. Plotsky, Messrs. Reinhardt, Signoracci, Simpson, Smith, Touchette, Ward, Ms. Willingham, Messrs. Burgdorf, Crouse, Drake, Grimm, Hogan, Ms. Lockart, Mr. Mauriello, Mendick, Stevens and Tunny:

WHEREAS, Whereas in May of each year, people across the United States recognize and celebrate over 350 years of Jewish contributions to the United States through Jewish American Heritage Month, and

WHEREAS, President George W. Bush first proclaimed the month of May as Jewish American Heritage Month in 2006 and since then annual proclamations have been made by the President of the United States, and

WHEREAS, This month Albany County will join citizens from around the nation to commemorate Jewish American History Month and pay tribute to the contributions to American history and culture of Jewish Americans, and

WHEREAS, The United States has always been a nation built on the achievements of immigrants, and Jewish Americans have strengthened the society of the United States and contributed significantly to all areas of life in the United States since the time when Jewish immigrants first arrived on the shores of the United States, and

WHEREAS, The success of Jewish Americans is a reminder of the importance of the constitutional right of religious freedom, as Jews in America have experienced the ability to freely practice their religion and live in a safe environment that was not provided in many of the countries they emigrated from, and

WHEREAS, Jewish Americans have demonstrated a strong commitment to public service and to helping those who are in most need, and

WHEREAS, Albany County was home to famous Jewish Americans such as Isaac Mayer Wise, known as the founder of Reform Judaism in the United States, who lived on South Ferry Street in the City of Albany and was the Rabbi at

Congregation Beth El on Herkimer Street in the City of Albany in the mid-Nineteenth Century, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By this Honorable Body that May 2018 is hereby designated as “Jewish American Heritage Month” in Albany County and all citizens of Albany County are encouraged to reflect upon contributions of Jewish Americans to the history and culture of our Nation and our County, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the County Legislature is directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to the appropriate County Officials.

Adopted by unanimous vote - 5/14/18