Whereas, as the site of historic events that took place at Stonewall Inn during the early morning hours of June 28, 1969, New York State is the renowned birthplace of the national movement for fairness, justice, and equality for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) and Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming (TGNC) communities, and we continue to be a leader in the pursuit of individual rights and freedoms for all people; and

Whereas, the Stonewall Uprising was a watershed event that sparked the fight for civil rights for LGBTQ individuals and, each June, we commemorate this milestone with expressions of pride and accomplishment among LGBTQ communities and reinforce the strength and solidarity that remain the foundation of the LGBTQ movement in the metropolitan area, our entire state, nation, and the world; and

Whereas, during LGBTQ Pride Month, the global community reflects upon our growth and progress as an equal and just society, and here in New York State we honor this legacy by commemorating the 50th anniversary of the first New York City Pride March held on June 28, 1970 – one year after the Stonewall Uprising – a pivotal moment in history and catalyst for change for the LGBTQ community; organized by courageous pioneers of this cause, the Pride March empowers and energizes millions of LGBTQ individuals to become voices of activism in the fight for civil, social, and human rights, and in openly displaying full pride as LGBTQ New Yorkers; and

Whereas, the finest examples of humanitarian spirit are found among our caring family of New Yorkers and, while the eyes of the world are fixed upon our state as the epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic, the LGBTQ community understands all too well the heartbreak and loss brought by another plague – the HIV/AIDS epidemic – and we take the opportunity to remember Larry Kramer, a great New Yorker who helped galvanize the nation’s response to this public health crisis as a fearless, uncompromising, and relentless voice of activism and action; and

Whereas, these challenging times ask each of us to exercise safety through social distancing, and the LGBTQ community respects the difficult decision to suspend in-person Pride events this year to slow the spread of the coronavirus and save lives; in unique and unprecedented celebrations that allow us to share a sense of togetherness and love, many organizations have set a virtual stage that invites LGBTQ people and their allies to continue this important tradition which honors the LGBTQ community’s right to a life of fairness, acceptance, and equality; and

Whereas, New Yorkers are of one family, one heart, and one mind, and we continue to observe Pride Month with educational and cultural events that promote important issues related to equal rights, freedom, and justice – from the historic passage of the Marriage Equality Act, to ensuring all are protected from discrimination on the basis of gender identity and expression, to banning the fraudulent practice of conversion therapy, to removing barriers to allow LGBTQ people to build families, and working to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic, New York remains a leader in achieving full equality for LGBTQ persons; and

Whereas, Pride Month will always bring together LGBTQ people and their allies to continue this important tradition of remembering the experience of LGBTQ individuals along with their hard fought accomplishments over the decades, and all New Yorkers join in spirit and unity to honor our LGBTQ community and recognize the vast history and heritage of LGBTQ advocacy found throughout New York City and State, especially proud of our past and present commitments to furthering the LGBTQ cause;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim June 2020 as

LGBTQ PRIDE MONTH

in the Empire State.

Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twentieth day of May in the year two thousand twenty.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor
Melissa DeRosa