



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, throughout its history, the Empire State has welcomed people from around the world of every nationality, and we appreciate people of various cultures who help make this state so great, including a flourishing Dominican community whose members uphold the honored traditions of their homeland and share the American values of freedom and democracy; and

Whereas, New Yorkers recognize that the Dominican community has had a positive impact on life in this State and Nation, and it continues to be a growing presence as Dominican Americans contribute significantly to many areas such as the arts, education, industry, science and community service; and

Whereas, people of Dominican ancestry demonstrate a strong work ethic and tremendous perseverance that have enabled them to find success and to improve their own community as well as others, making our State a better place for people of all backgrounds; and

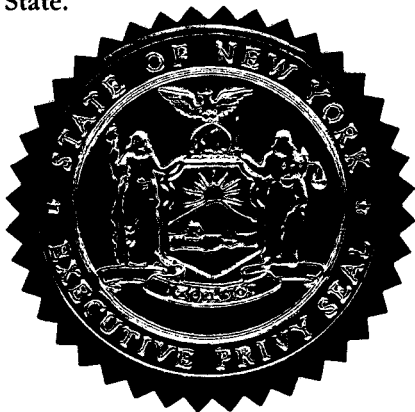
Whereas, during this month-long observance, our state's Dominican communities celebrate activities that promote awareness of their heritage through religious and patriotic celebrations such as the national observance of "La Virgen de la Altagracia" (Our Lady of High-Grace), a special day of tribute to Juan Pablo Duarte – founding father of the Dominican Republic, and the 164th anniversary of Dominican independence; in doing so, they help reinforce the Empire State's reputation as a cultural capital of the world and enable all people to join in recognizing their history, customs and goodwill displayed throughout the year; and

Whereas, it is fitting that New Yorkers join in this commemoration of ancestral pride and tradition, and extend appreciation to our Dominican friends and neighbors for the meaningful contributions they have made and continue to make in this great State and Nation;

Now, Therefore, I, Eliot Spitzer, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim January 26 – February 25, 2008 as

DOMINICAN HERITAGE MONTH

in the Empire State.



G i v e n under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-third
day of January in the year two thousand eight.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor