



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, New York's greatest strength is its diversity of people who hail from around the globe and our State is proud to host events that celebrate the traditions and accompanying festivities that further promote appreciation and understanding of various cultures and, therefore, we join with the statewide Asian American community to welcome the arrival of Lunar New Year 4706 on February 7, 2008; and

Whereas, the Lunar New Year begins on the second New Moon after the Winter Solstice and, according to the lunar calendar, 2008 is the "Year of the Rat" – the first sign of the zodiac, which symbolizes protection and material prosperity, as well as aggression, wealth and charm, yet it is also associated with hardship and suffering; and

Whereas, our various Asian American communities contribute to the success of our country and add to the uniqueness and multi-ethnicity of New York State, and as home to one of this nation's largest Asian American populations, we look forward to celebrations that foster appreciation of ancient traditions, such as the time-honored observance of the Lunar New Year, deeply rooted in the history of many Asian countries; and

Whereas, a host of festivities that take place throughout Lunar New Year 4706 will provide an opportunity for all to experience the richness of Asian culture and to recognize the contributions that Asian Americans have made to our state, nation and the world, as we collectively reflect upon the past year with hope and optimism for the year ahead; and

Whereas, Lunar New Year's Eve and New Year's Day are a time for family, a time of reunion, and a time for thanksgiving, and it is fitting that all New Yorkers share in this joyous occasion with our Asian American communities as they celebrate New Year 4706;

Now, Therefore, I, Eliot Spitzer, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim February 7, 2008 as

LUNAR NEW YEAR 4706 DAY

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 fourteenth day of January in the year two thousand eight.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor