



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

**Whereas**, the Empire State is proud to be the site of events that honor important cultural traditions inspired by a community's religious faith and spiritual foundation, and many of these occasions strengthen the sense of unity that draws people of a common heritage together during times of special holy observance, such as the Christmas Season; and

**Whereas**, the annual celebration of Three Kings Day, "El Día de Los Reyes Magos," is the continuation of a time-honored tradition with ancient cultural and religious roots traceable to the Puerto Rican, Caribbean, and Latin American heritages, and it is a wonderful means by which these communities can share an important custom with people of all backgrounds and give children an opportunity to experience a valuable part of their ancestral legacy; and

**Whereas**, Three Kings Day is celebrated twelve days after Christmas, on January 6th, in commemoration of the visit of the Magi, or "Wise Men" who arrived in Bethlehem to worship and bring gifts to the newborn Christ child, and those who sponsor events to commemorate this day recognize the importance of preserving its history and symbolism; and

**Whereas**, viewed as the last day of the Christmas season, features of the Three Kings Day Celebration include music, dance, and various Latino Christmas foods, as children and families enjoy the singing of traditional carols; and

**Whereas**, many people of Puerto Rican, Caribbean and Latin American descent living in the United States follow the example of the Three Kings Day celebration and continue the tradition of giving gifts to children who wait with great anticipation for the distribution of toys and other presents; and

**Whereas**, this celebration not only represents the fulfillment of the hopes and dreams of children, but also has special significance for many adults who hold such fond memories of this holiday in their beloved homeland, as Three Kings Day is a culmination of the spirit of joy, hope and generosity that the Christmas Season brings;

**Now, Therefore**, I, Eliot Spitzer, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim January 6, 2008 as

## THREE KINGS DAY

and extend best wishes to all of the families taking part in this meaningful religious and cultural celebration.



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

  
Governor

  
Secretary to the Governor