

2023-J2341

Senate Resolution No. 2341

BY: Senator MAYER

COMMEMORATING the 100th Anniversary of First
Baptist Church of Mamaroneck, New York

WHEREAS, Religious institutions and the many spiritual, social, and educational benefits they confer play a vital role in the development of the moral fabric of a responsible citizenry; and

WHEREAS, It is the tradition of this State and this Nation to pay tribute to those institutions and individuals who have contributed to the ethical and spiritual values of their communities; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body takes pleasure in commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the First Baptist Church of Mamaroneck, New York; and

WHEREAS, First Baptist Church had been heavily damaged by Hurricane Ida in September of 2021; the horrific storm devastated Washingtonville, the 125-acre neighborhood within Mamaroneck, known as the Flats, predominantly lower income people of color; and

WHEREAS, According to planning documents for Washingtonville, dating back several decades, the area was prone to flooding; however, the intensity and magnitude of Hurricane Ida's deluge on the night of September 1, 2021, was unprecedented; and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Ida caused the most devastating flooding in Washingtonville's recent history with a cost of \$100 million, affecting more than 500 homes and destroying 310 vehicles; and

WHEREAS, First Baptist Church, which was built in 1938, is situated only a few feet from the Mamaroneck River; since its inception, the church has endured many storms but none as destructive as Hurricane Ida; and

WHEREAS, This river overflowed its banks during the hurricane, tearing a hole into the back of the church and filling the sanctuary with murky water; a wall outside the church was demolished by the strength of the floodwaters; although the stained glass windows survived the torrents, the interior of the building required the removal of rotting pews and carpeting; and

WHEREAS, Donations from the community aided in the rebuilding of the church which cost \$250,000; the renovation was completed in only seven months, allowing the church to reopen its doors on Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022; and

WHEREAS, A flood risk management plan by the United States Army Corps of Engineers, in conjunction with actions taken by officials in Mamaroneck, could mitigate future devastation; however, there is no clear timeline presently, perpetuating the uncertainty of the citizens of the community; and

WHEREAS, The residents of Mamaroneck have exemplified the resilience and determination necessary for rebuilding and moving forward; defeat was not an option; compassion, kindness, and benevolence triumphed over loss, despair, and hopelessness; and

WHEREAS, Reverend James E. Taylor, Pastor of First Baptist Church for 35 years, led the Easter service for the excited and grateful worshipers who convened in celebration of new life and a new church; the faithful members of this pillar of the community would feel the fellowship they had desired and greatly missed; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to take note of enduring religious institutions and to bring such institutions to the attention of the people of this Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of First Baptist Church of Mamaroneck, New York, fully confident that this commemoration reflects the belief in those values which enhance the dignity and purpose of life; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to First Baptist Church.