

2023-J2529

Senate Resolution No. 2529

BY: Senator CHU

MOURNING the death of Don B. Lee, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to citizens of the State of New York whose lifework and civic endeavor served to enhance the quality of life in their communities and this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Don B. Lee died on Monday, May 6, 2024, at the age of 65; and

WHEREAS, In 1959, Don B. Lee was born in British Hong Kong; with his single father, he immigrated to New York City at the age of 10 and grew up in Chinatown in Manhattan, New York; and

WHEREAS, Don B. Lee graduated from New York University in 1985 and started his professional career as a public servant for the City of New York, making significant contributions in automating operations and increasing access to contracts between the City and small- and medium-sized businesses; and

WHEREAS, In the field of Information Technology (IT), Don B. Lee's work, while serving as Chief Information Officer for the South Manhattan Healthcare Network, extended to the healthcare system, transforming the IT system of Bellevue Hospital Center and other institutions; and

WHEREAS, Don B. Lee was also a passionate community activist, advocating for the dignity and rights of Asian Americans; his activism included serving on his local community board, working for access to transportation for Asian American communities, and supporting businesses in Chinatown; and

WHEREAS, Speaking against anti-Asian activities during the COVID pandemic, Don B. Lee empowered the members of his community to courageously continue their daily activities and conduct their business; and

WHEREAS, As the Homecrest Community Services Board Chair for more than 20 years, Don B. Lee assisted in providing services and defending the rights of disadvantaged communities; this non-profit organization serves immigrant seniors and their families in South Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his lifetime, Don B. Lee enjoyed Asian American representation and Chinese cooking, conducting research into the diets of Chinese Transcontinental Railroad workers; consequently, he presented a cooking demonstration at railroad commemorations around the United States; and

WHEREAS, To many, Don B. Lee is revered as a remarkable friend, mentor, and community supporter and will be deeply missed by everyone who was fortunate to know him; his legacy of advocating for the rights

of Asian American communities will live on in those whose lives he touched so meaningfully; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Don B. Lee leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the

passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all he served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Don B. Lee, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Don B. Lee and Homecrest Community Services.