

2025-J558

Senate Resolution No. 558

BY: Senator BASKIN

COMMEMORATING the 100th Anniversary of "The Buffalo Criterion"

WHEREAS, In the course of the evolving development of the Empire State, there have emerged among its distinguished citizens certain organizations which warrant special recognition; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend the illustrious organizations of the State of New York, the focus and intent of which have made a substantial impact on the quality of life in their communities; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of "The Buffalo Criterion" of Buffalo, New York; and

WHEREAS, The newspaper "The Buffalo Criterion" has a rich history of involvement and service to the community; with the belief that "the pen is mightier than the sword," Frank E. Merriweather, Sr. and his wife, Carmelita, established "The Buffalo Criterion" in 1925 and set about championing issues affecting Black Americans; and

WHEREAS, Through "The Buffalo Criterion," the Merriweathers, along with their four children, Hulit, Frank E., Jr., Thyra, and Barbara,

sought to help improve the lives of people in their community; they worked for the growth and expansion of the Black community civically, politically, and economically while documenting the history of Black Buffalo in photographs and journalism; and

WHEREAS, With the passing of the late editor Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. on May 22, 1995, "The Buffalo Criterion" moved into its third generation; Frank E. Merriweather, Jr. and his wife, the late Evelyn Merriweather (nee Patterson) had twelve grandchildren and six great-grandchildren who helped maintain the tradition of the Merriweather legacy; and

WHEREAS, Today, the Merriweather family remains strong in their commitment to continue informing the Black community on issues vital to its survival, including civil and human rights, politics, health, education, finances, employment, housing, entertainment, and religion; they also encourage participation in the political process; and

WHEREAS, Now in its 100th year, "The Buffalo Criterion" remains the oldest Black newspaper in Western New York and the oldest Black business in Erie County; and

WHEREAS, Throughout its distinguished history, "The Buffalo Criterion" has demonstrated continuous service to the residents and communities which it serves; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of "The Buffalo Criterion" of Buffalo,

New York, recognizing its cultural and historical significance and its continued service to the community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to "The Buffalo Criterion".