

2009-J2939

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 170th Anniversary of Humboldt Parkway Baptist Church of Buffalo, New York, to be celebrated on Sunday, October 11, 2009

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 170th Anniversary of Humboldt Parkway Baptist Church of Buffalo, New York, to be celebrated on Sunday, October 11, 2009; and

WHEREAS, The oldest African-American Baptist church in Buffalo, New York, Humboldt Parkway Baptist Church started in 1839, as the Michigan Street Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the years, the mission of this extraordinary Church has been to give a helping hand while sharing a relationship with Christ; its achievements, its present activities, along with its rich history are a constant source of pride for each and every congregant; through fellowship and worship, the Church accomplishes its goals by being committed to its vision; and

WHEREAS, During slavery, the Church served as a station on the Underground Railroad; the members sheltered and cared for runaway slaves in both the Church and in their homes, aiding the slaves in their escape to Canada; and

WHEREAS, The former Michigan Avenue Baptist location has been designated a Historical Preservation Site; and

WHEREAS, Since 1839, there have been 21 pastors, most notable among them: Reverend J. Edward Nash, 1892-1953; Reverend Porter W. Phillips, Jr., 1953-1972; and in December 1972 the Church selected the current pastor, Reverend John T. Hilliard; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous direction of Reverend John T. Hilliard, along with Associate Pastor Reverend Robert Jackson, Humboldt Parkway

Baptist Church stands on the threshold of tomorrow, prepared to meet the challenges of the coming decades while retaining that spiritual resolve which characterizes its past; 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 170th Anniversary of Humboldt Parkway Baptist Church of Buffalo, New York, to be observed on Sunday, October 11, 2009, 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 Reverend John T. Hilliard, Pastor, Humboldt Parkway Baptist Church, Buffalo, New York 14211.