

2009-J940

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating Peggy Brooks-Bertram upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition as recipient of the 2009 Governor's Women's History Month Award

WHEREAS, Individuals who give of their time and energies and serve the best interests of their communities are an asset beyond remuneration and cannot be sufficiently extolled; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those distinguished citizens who devote their time and energies to the service of their community and profession, participating in civic affairs and enhancing the character and quality of life for all citizens; and

WHEREAS, It is also the custom of this Legislative Body to acknowledge outstanding individuals whose professional lives, personal endeavors and community service are an example and inspiration to their colleagues, friends, and family; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Peggy Brooks-Bertram upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition as recipient of the 2009 Governor's Women's History Month Award; this auspicious occasion will be celebrated on Tuesday March 24, 2009, in Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, Peggy Brooks-Bertram is the co-author of UNCROWNED QUEENS: AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY BUILDERS OF WESTERN NEW YORK; this book and the "Uncrowned Queens Project" provides an extensive examination of the role the African American community played in the PAN AMERICAN Exposition of 1901, held in Buffalo, New York; and

WHEREAS, In her role as a co-chair of the Uncrowned Queens focus group, Peggy Brooks-Bertram envisioned the "Uncrowned Queens Project" as

a vehicle to honor the Black women of Western New York who had lived in the era from the PAN AMERICAN Exposition to the present; and WHEREAS, Peggy Brooks-Bertram moved to Buffalo, New York, in 1986; she completed a B.A. in political science from Goucher College and received her master's and doctorate degrees from the Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health; she also has a doctorate degree in American Studies from the University at Buffalo, The State University of New York; and

WHEREAS, Currently an adjunct Assistant Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of African American Studies at the University at Buffalo, The State University of New York, Peggy Brooks-Bertram is a multi-talented individual with interests across a broad spectrum, including public education, special topics in public health, journalism, creative writing, and independent scholarship on various topics in African American history; and

WHEREAS, Devoted to public education Peggy Brooks-Bertram has a distinguished record of advocacy for parents of children in public schools; her interests and activities in public health include African American women and depression and developmental disabilities; she maintains a special interest in families of children with neurological impairments; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Peggy Brooks-Bertram is a playwright, poet, and dramatist, as well as an independent scholar; for several years she also maintained a byline, MAAT, with the CHALLENGER newspaper and has produced her own radio program, PEGGY'S PLACE, which focused on issues pertinent to the African American community; she also was co-producer and host of an educational television program, EDUCATION IN REVIEW,

which informed the community of major educational issues in Buffalo and beyond; and

WHEREAS, In 2001, Morgan State University awarded Peggy Brooks-Bertram its first Distinguished Achievement Award for Outstanding Contributions

to African American History and Culture; she also received the University at Buffalo, UB Service Excellence Award for the Library Internship/Residency Program; in addition, she is the recipient of the UB Star Award for outstanding work on the Pan American Exposition centennial celebration with the Uncrowned Queens Project; and WHEREAS, Among the community service awards received by Peggy Brooks-Bertram are: the M.O.C.H.A. (Men of Color Helping All) of the Year Award, African-American Fire Fighters; Clifford G. Bell Community Service Award; and the National Association of Counties, Individual Achievement Award for Family Support Programs for Families of Children with Prader-Willi Syndrome; and WHEREAS, Peggy Brooks-Bertram is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Buffalo Historical Society and the Kaleida Health Trustee Council; she is a member of the St. John Baptist Church where she is Chair of the St. John Hospice Development Committee; and WHEREAS, Peggy Brooks-Bertram and her husband, Dennis, are the proud parents of two children, Dennison Ivor-Jean and Lillian-Yvonne Margaret Bertram; and WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of her professional and community service, a period of constructive involvement, Peggy Brooks-Bertram has stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor; and WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Peggy Brooks-Bertram has displayed throughout her life; and WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their profession and community, and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence, certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Peggy Brooks-Bertram upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition as recipient of the 2009 Governor's Women's

History Month Award; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Peggy Brooks-Bertram.