

## 2009-J5239

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Ms. Thelma D. Davis, upon the occasion of being honored on May 20, 2010, in conjunction with Women of Valor Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, The State of New York is home to countless women who have contributed to the advancement of our culture through their traditional and non-traditional roles in society; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those Women of Valor within the Empire State who have made strong contributions to their communities and who inspire others through their model citizenship; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Ms. Thelma D. Davis, upon the occasion of being honored on May 20, 2010, in conjunction with Women of Valor Day in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Women of every race, class, and ethnic background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of New York State in countless recorded and unrecorded ways; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Senate has set aside time to recognize the unique contributions that valiant women have made to this great Empire State and its society; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Thelma D. Davis was born October 31, 1927, and grew up in Barnwell, South Carolina; despite the odds, she has been undaunted in her dedication and commitment to the entire New York community; her determination rose to the forefront in her life more than 40 years ago in 1963 when she joined the Reverend Dr. Martin L. King Jr. in that historic march on Washington for civil rights; and

WHEREAS, Thelma Davis is a community activist, counselor, humanitarian, and dedicated individual; she co-founded the Love Yourself Stop The Violence organization and as a result of her son's (Councilman James E. Davis III) assassination inside New York City Hall, she co-founded the James E. Davis Stop The Violence Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Davis was married to the late James E. Davis Jr., has two surviving children, Felecia and Geoffrey and is the grandmother of four

and the great-grandmother of three; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Davis has organized and participated in various events geared towards activism and community self-empowerment including: The annual James E. Davis Multicultural Peace Breakfast/Memorial at City Hall, the annual Love Yourself Stop The Violence Family Day Peace Walk/Concert, the annual Men and Women of Faith Peace Breakfast, the annual James E. Davis Photographic Arts Exhibits, the James E. Davis Training Educational Programs and the annual American History Tours; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Davis started this work in order to bring people of all races together; by doing so, this allowed them to get to know their elected officials, receive a higher education, learn the history of America and provide a way for victims/survivors of violence to come together and remember their roots; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Davis is a Registered Nurse by trade; she has also hosted forums on Sickle Cell Anemia and domestic violence against women; in addition, she has participated in Career Days at various New York City public schools, Stop the Violence lectures, provided scholarship funds for disadvantaged youth, voter registration drives in underprivileged neighborhoods, along with hosting award ceremonies; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Davis graduated from Mercy Douglas Hospital in Philadelphia, earning her Registered Nursing degree; she later attended Medgar Evers College earning her Bachelor of Science degree and was one of its

first graduates; she has worked as a Registered Nurse, specializing in Neurology and Psychiatric Nursing; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Davis is the first Vice President of Albany Senior Citizens Center's Advisory Board, Treasurer of AARP Brooklyn Chapter 180, Senior Citizens Advocate and President of the James E. Davis Multicultural Museum of Peace; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Davis is the recipient of countless awards, such as the Senior Advocacy Day Award, The Buffalo Soldiers Award and The New York City Council Service Award; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Davis' life work has been portrayed in plays, TV shows and documentaries; she has appeared in local, national, and international media and presently is working on opening the first ever Museum for Peace in New York City; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is pleased to have this opportunity to express its highest admiration for Ms. Thelma D. Davis, and to wish her

continued success in all of her future endeavors; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when Women of Valor, noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Ms. Thelma D. Davis, upon the occasion of being honored on May 20, 2010, in conjunction with Women of Valor Day in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Ms. Thelma D. Davis.