

2011-J100

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating William James Steward of Brooklyn, New York, upon the occasion of celebrating his 100th Birthday

WHEREAS, Senior citizens bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the increasingly active roles they play in today's society; their past contributions and future participation are a vital part of, and valuable asset to, the fabric of community life and activity; and

WHEREAS, This exceptional centenarian, with his zest for life, has inspired and enhanced the lives of his family and friends; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate William James Steward upon the occasion of celebrating his 100th Birthday with a party to be held in his honor at Bridge Street African Wesleyan Methodist Episcopal Church (A.W.M.E.), of Brooklyn, New York, on Sunday, November 7, 2010; and

WHEREAS, Born in Georgetown, South Carolina, William James Steward migrated to Brooklyn in 1929; a year later, he joined The African Wesleyan Methodist Episcopal Church located at 309 Bridge Street in downtown Brooklyn, also known as Bridge Street African Wesleyan Methodist Episcopal Church where members of this congregation are warmly regarded as 309'ers; and

WHEREAS, William James Steward faithfully served his church as an usher for over 67 years; he is also a member of the Bridge Street Relief Society as well as the Arthur L. Funn Lay Organization; and

WHEREAS, A dedicated member of his community, William James Steward was a proud founding member of both the Georgetonians of New York, Inc. and the Surface Line Operators Fraternal Organization, Inc.; in addition, he served as a member of the Board of Directors for the Brooklyn Day Care Center; and

WHEREAS, Compelled to visit the sick and the shut-in, William James

Steward, a lover of baseball caps, provided caps and candy on his weekly visits to the various nursing homes within the Bedford-Stuyvesant community; subsequently, he was affectionately known as the "candy man" for the next 13 years; and

WHEREAS, William James Steward has been married to Wilma B. Johnson Steward for 51 years; she feels privileged to be a part of his life and rejoices in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, This distinguished man has experienced the incredible joys and sorrows characteristic of and reserved for those with the stamina and courage to savor a full life; and

WHEREAS, William James Steward has enriched the lives of those around him through his joyous and sincere love for others and through the quiescent charm and wisdom which comes only from a fullness of years; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to publicly recognize those who have reached such a remarkable age and who have witnessed and celebrated the innovations, cultural developments and awesome achievements of this country during the last century, while themselves contributing to the growth and excellence of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate William James Steward upon the occasion of celebrating his 100th Birthday; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to William James Steward, Brooklyn, New York.