

## 2011-J213

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Mildred Audrey Williams Pilgrim, distinguished citizen and devoted member of her community

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to citizens of the State of New York whose lifework and civic endeavor served to enhance the quality of life in their communities and the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Mildred Audrey Williams Pilgrim of Brooklyn, New York, died on Saturday, July 31, 2010, at the age of 87; and

WHEREAS, Born on August 16, 1922, Mildred W. Pilgrim was the eldest child of Anne Etta Holmes and Edward Williams; and

WHEREAS, A native Brooklynite, Mildred W. Pilgrim was a product of the New York City public school system; she graduated with honors from Public School 44; she later enrolled at Bushwick High School where she graduated Summa Cum Laude; and

WHEREAS, While completing her studies, Mildred W. Pilgrim formed many long-lasting friendships, the most important of which was with a young boy named Leslie Pilgrim; and

WHEREAS, Upon graduating from high school, Mildred and Leslie were married and moved to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, the marine base that housed the first African-American members of the United States Marine Corps; after Leslie was honorably discharged from the Corps, the family returned to Brooklyn and added a special addition, their son, Leslie, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Affectionately known as Millie, Mildred W. Pilgrim distinguished herself in her profession with her sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of her community; and

WHEREAS, Mildred W. Pilgrim had a great gift for numbers and this skill was recognized by her employers; she spent the majority of her

esteemed career with the City of New York as a Financial Administrator for the Human Resources Administration; and

WHEREAS, Mildred W. Pilgrim's commitment to excellence, and her spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, An extraordinary community advocate, Mildred W. Pilgrim was also a strong supporter of education; under the leadership of the late Honorable Shirley Chisholm, she and a group of dynamic women started the Shirley Chisholm Cultural Institute for Children (SCCIC); this illustrious organization was dedicated to the educational and cultural enrichment of children in the Bedford-Stuyvesant/Crown Heights neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, Mildred W. Pilgrim was a lively, energetic, magnetic individual who knew how to make things happen; her sense of humor and ability to endear everyone to her has been seconded by no one; she focused on improving the condition of all within her reach and did not tire until changes were made; and

WHEREAS, Mildred W. Pilgrim enjoyed her friends and loved her family; her love and spirit were infinite and through her lifetime she made a difference in the lives of countless individuals who were happy to adopt her as their "Nana"; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by her husband, Leslie Pilgrim; her sister, Catherine Williams; and her dear friend, Ivy Smith, Mildred W. Pilgrim is survived by her son, Leslie Pilgrim, Jr. and his wife, Doris; granddaughters, Shalei Simms and Cha-ka Pilgrim and their mother, Deidre Pilgrim; step-grandsons, Bryon Shambley and Brandon Casenave; grandsons-in-law, Thomas Simms and Anthony Taylor; three great-grandchildren, Leslie, Malaia and Kalia; her very special love for Tisha and Jevon; and

numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, and her nephew, Claver, whom she cared for since her sister's passing, as well as her beloved caretaker, Giselle; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit, imbued with a sense of compassion and comforted by a loving family, Mildred W. Pilgrim leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all she served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Mildred Audrey Williams Pilgrim, distinguished citizen and devoted member of her community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Mildred Audrey Williams Pilgrim.