

2011-J1728

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 105th Anniversary of Bethel Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York

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, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body takes pleasure in commemorating the 105th Anniversary of Bethel Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York, on Sunday, May 15, 2011; and

WHEREAS, The second church in Brooklyn to be built from the ground up by African Americans, Bethel Baptist Church was founded in 1906 by Reverend Timothy White, who was ordained to preach the Gospel the following year; and

WHEREAS, In 1944, Reverend L.T. Chapman was called to be the Pastor of Bethel Baptist Church after Reverend Timothy White passed away; during his tenure, the church liquidated its mortgage, installed chimes in its organ and purchased a parsonage; and

WHEREAS, Following the death of Reverend L.T. Chapman, Reverend Paul T. Pruden acted as a supply Pastor until Reverend W.J. Hall was installed as the official Pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in 1961; and

WHEREAS, In 2005, The Reverend Doctor W.J. Hall retired after 44 years as Pastor, and The Reverend Doctor H. DeVore Chapman was installed as the fourth Pastor of Bethel Baptist Church; Reverend H. DeVore Chapman ably leads Bethel Baptist Church in its prospering today and into the future; and

WHEREAS, Bethel 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 105th Anniversary of Bethel Baptist Church in Brooklyn,
New York, 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 trans-
mitted to The Reverend Doctor H. DeVore Chapman, Pastor of Bethel
Baptist Church, Brooklyn, New York.