

## 2011-J2537

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 200th Anniversary of the Macedonia African Methodist Episcopal Church of Queens, New York, to be celebrated on June 25, 2011

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, This Legislative Body takes pleasure in commemorating the 200th Anniversary of the Macedonia African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church of Queens, New York, to be celebrated on Saturday, June 25, 2011; and

WHEREAS, As one of the oldest organizations of any kind in Queens, the Macedonia A.M.E. Church has truly been a pillar of strength and a source of pride for everyone; and

WHEREAS, The Macedonia A.M.E. Church was organized by people of African descent and heritage, welcoming all, and has become a multi-racial, multi-cultural institution; and

WHEREAS, Today, the Macedonia A.M.E. Church's commitment to social justice and equality is as strong as it was 200 years ago; throughout its history, it has served as a beacon of hope to those seeking a better life; and

WHEREAS, Not only is Flushing blessed to have such an invaluable institution in the community, the Macedonia A.M.E. Church has truly shaped the lives of so many people; it exemplifies the rich culture that represents Queens, New York City's most diverse borough; and

WHEREAS, The Macedonia A.M.E. Church offers a wide range of ministries

to build bridges among parishioners and the community, ranging from Bible study to food pantries, health and wellness services to day care, adult and youth fellowship; and

WHEREAS, The block of 38th Avenue at Union Street where the Macedonia A.M.E. Church is located will be co-named Macedonia A.M.E. Church Way in honor of the 200th Anniversary; and

WHEREAS, The original site of the Macedonia A.M.E. Church was purchased in 1811 by the Trustees and members of the African Methodist Society of Flushing, New York, which is believed to have been formed years previously by free blacks, Native Americans and whites, who may also have been ex-slaves; and

WHEREAS, In 1818, Richard Allen sought to expand the influence of the newly formed African Methodist Episcopal Church by sending missions to New York; by 1820, eight churches had joined the New York Conference, and in 1821, the Reverend Henry Heardon was appointed the first minister of the Macedonia A.M.E. Church; and

WHEREAS, In 1837, the Macedonia A.M.E. Church's first building was erected near its present site; and

WHEREAS, The congregation grew to more than 500 members, and by 1928, more space was needed; The Reverend William McKinley Dawkins led the largest prayer meeting in the New York Conference, and four years later, the new building was dedicated; and

WHEREAS, The Reverend G. Grant Crumpley led the congregation in its fight to preserve the Macedonia A.M.E. Church building and adjacent lot from the wrecking ball in the 1940s, and thanks to his efforts, the building still stands in downtown Flushing; and

WHEREAS, The Macedonia A.M.E. 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 200th Anniversary of the Macedonia A.M.E. Church, to be  
observed on June 25, 2011, 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 copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be tran-  
smitted to Pastor, Reverend Richard O. McEachern; Assistant Pastor,  
Reverend Ellen C. McEachern; and Committee Chairs, Marion Brown and  
Chiquita Carter, Macedonia A.M.E. Church, Queens, New York.