

2011-J2341

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 200th Anniversary of the Macedonia African Methodist Episcopal Church of Flushing, 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 Church of Flushing, New York; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious event will be celebrated on Saturday, June 25, 2011, at the renaming of 38th Avenue and Union Street in Flushing, New York, as Macedonia A.M.E. Church Way; and

WHEREAS, In April of 1811, the African Methodist Society in Flushing, the forerunner to the present day Macedonia African Methodist Episcopal Church (A.M.E.) was formed; the congregation was comprised of freed blacks, Native Americans and poor whites in the community; and

WHEREAS, In 1821, the African Methodist Episcopal Church, New York Conference, sent the first A.M.E. pastor to Macedonia, the Rev. Henry Hearden; approximately 16 years later during the pastorate of Rev.

Israel Scott, a one room wooden structure was built to house the congregation at nearly the same location as the present day structure; and

WHEREAS, Macedonia African Methodist Episcopal Church has built a great legacy on the foundation of a faithful and fruitful past; it has stood as a beacon of light in the midst of a changed and changing community, offering spiritual support and tangible sustenance to all who

would enter its doors; over the years it has fed tens of thousands, clothed thousands more, and provided monetary relief to more still; and WHEREAS, Moreover, Macedonia African Methodist Episcopal Church is host to various community organization meetings; it has been available for 109th precinct activities; it has entertained community youth activities, including basketball tournaments and off-season baseball training sessions; and

WHEREAS, Macedonia African Methodist Episcopal Church houses one of the finest Day Care Centers in the community; it also serves as an emergency food pantry, and as a weekly food distribution center providing provisions to over 450 families weekly; the church provides hot meals weekly to the homeless and others in the community, and distributes clothing and other emergency service needs for the community; and WHEREAS, Macedonia African Methodist Episcopal 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 African Methodist Episcopal Church of Flushing, New York, 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 a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Reverend Richard O. Eachern, Pastor, Macedonia African Methodist Episcopal Church, Flushing, New York.