

2011-J2949

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the Maria Lawton Senior Center upon the occasion of the celebration of its 60th Anniversary on November 18, 2011

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, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor those illustrious organizations of the State of New York whose purposeful endeavors serve to enhance the quality of life for the cherished senior citizens in their communities; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the Maria Lawton Senior Center of Brooklyn, New York, upon the occasion of the celebration of its 60th Anniversary on Friday, November 18, 2011, at Fleur De Lis, Ridgewood, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Maria Lawton Senior Center began 60 years ago as the Stuyvesant Center for Older People; and

WHEREAS, The Center was the vision of Maria Coles Perkins Lawton, April 30, 1864 - March 1, 1946, a leading politician and educator; she was educated in Lynchburg High School, Richmond Institute and Howard University; and

WHEREAS, Maria Coles Perkins was the beloved wife of The Reverend William R. Lawton, and the loving mother of seven children; and

WHEREAS, This outstanding woman was designated by Governor Glynn of New York, to represent the State at the Educational Congress, in both Oklahoma and Missouri; and

WHEREAS, She was the Director of the 50th Anniversary Emancipation Celebration and represented the Women of New York State at the Labor Conference of Women, Washington D.C. in 1924; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Maria Lawton served as Director of the Eastern Division at the 1924 Republic National Presidential Convention, and was President of the Empire State Federation for 10 years; and

WHEREAS, For 20 years, Maria Lawton was a Reporter on the staff of the

Brooklyn Standard Union, and Chairman of Program and Literature, National Association of Colored Women; and

WHEREAS, The Maria Lawton Senior Center, the first African-American senior center, was originally housed on Bridge Street in Downtown Brooklyn; it relocated to the Y.M.C.A. on Third Avenue, and then to St. Philips Parish and eventually to Siloam Presbyterian Church; and

WHEREAS, As the membership flourished in excess of 300 seniors, the Maria Lawton Senior Center relocated to the Eleanor Roosevelt Houses where it remains to the present; and

WHEREAS, The program was formerly funded by the Human Resources Administration and is now sponsored by Fort Greene Council, Inc. and funded by the New York City Department for the Aging as of June 1, 1992; and

WHEREAS, The "Oldest Senior Center in Brooklyn" is under the illustrious leadership of Executive Director, Claudette Macey; Director, Viola E. Andrews; and Chairman, Sam Pinn; and

WHEREAS, With a large and growing membership, the Maria Lawton Senior Center continues to thrive and provide senior citizens, 60 years of age and over, with a full range of social services, nutritious meals, health and wellness promotion and recreational activities; and

WHEREAS, This significant milestone is an excellent opportunity to recognize the special contributions of the Maria Lawton Senior Center and the dedicated individuals who strive to better the quality of life for senior citizens in the community; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to recognize and celebrate the legacy of New York's senior citizens who have experienced tumultuous changes in the 20th Century, including the dawn of the nuclear age, the rise of the computer, and the proliferation of the automobile, television, technology and so many other innovations of the American spirit, and who now represent a great and willing source of knowledge available to our great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Maria Lawton Senior Center upon the occasion of the celebration of its 60th Anniversary; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Maria Lawton Senior Center, 400 Hart Street, Brooklyn, New York 11206.