

## 2011-K1221

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Gilbert Edward Noble, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community

WHEREAS, The quality and character of life in this Nation, and the great State of New York, is reflective of the purposeful lives and good works of those patriotic and civic-minded community members who dedicated their lives and careers to the service of others; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to mourn the death of Gilbert Edward Noble, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community; and

WHEREAS, A courageous and passionate television broadcaster, Gilbert Noble was the producer and host of New York City television station WABC-TV's weekly talk show, "Like It Is"; the program focused primarily on issues concerning African Americans and those within the African Diaspora; and

WHEREAS, Gilbert Noble was born in Harlem on February 22, 1932, the son of Rachel Noble, a teacher, and Gilbert R. Noble, who owned an auto repair shop; both parents were born in Jamaica; and

WHEREAS, He attended City College and was drafted into the United States Army during the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, In 1962, Gilbert Noble got his professional break into broadcast media when he was hired as a part-time announcer at WLIB 1190AM radio; he then joined WABC in July of 1967 as a reporter during the Newark Riots, and the following year, he became an anchor of its Saturday and Sunday night newscasts; and

WHEREAS, Later that same year, "Like It Is" began its broadcast with Robert Hooks as its host and Gilbert Noble as its co-host; and

WHEREAS, In November of 1968, WABC rebranded its newscasts as "Eyewitness News" and Gilbert Noble was simultaneously an occasional interview-

er on some of WABC's other public affairs shows, such as "Eyewitness Exclusive"; and

WHEREAS, Gilbert Noble succeeded Robert Hooks in late 1968, and co-hosted the landmark show, "Like It Is" with a number of journalists including Melba Tolliver and Geraldo Rivera; and

WHEREAS, After a few years of independently hosting "Like It Is," Gilbert Noble also became its producer in 1975; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, Gilbert Noble interviewed many prominent figures, including the following heads of state: Sekou Ture (Guinea), Robert Mugabe (Zimbabwe), Julius Nyerere (Tanzania), Michael Manley and P.J. Patterson (Jamaica), Maurice Bishop (Grenada), Sam Nujoma (Namibia), Kenneth Kaunda (Zambia), and Thomas Sankara (Burkina Faso); and

WHEREAS, In entertainment, Gilbert Noble's interviews have included Bill Cosby, Bob Marley, Erroll Garner, Sarah Vaughan, Sammy Davis, Jr., Dizzy Gillespie, Oscar Peterson, Carmen McCrae, Aretha Franklin, Nancy Wilson, Harry Belafonte, Sidney Poitier, Nipsey Russell, Lena Horne, Wynton Marsalis, Milt Jackson, and Jackie McLean; and

WHEREAS, In sports, Gilbert Noble has interviewed Muhammad Ali, Sugar Ray Leonard, Arthur Ashe, and Jim Brown; he has interviewed such political figures as: Jesse Jackson, David Dinkins, Harold Washington, The Honorable Min. Louis Farrakhan, Andrew Young, Stokely Carmichael (Kwame Ture), Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., Councilman Charles Barron, and Bruce Wright; and

WHEREAS, In 1977, Gilbert Noble wrote, directed and produced the first documentary on Paul Robeson, entitled "The Tallest Tree in Our Forest"; and

WHEREAS, In 1981, Gilbert Noble told his own story via his memoir, BLACK IS THE COLOR OF MY TV TUBE; and

WHEREAS, Gilbert Noble received several honorary degrees, and over 700 awards, including seven Emmy Awards for his documentaries "El Hajj Malik El Shabazz", "Paul Robeson", "Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.", "The Reverend

Adam Clayton Powell Jr.", "Decade of Struggle", "Essay on Drugs", and "Outstanding Series"; "Like It Is" remains one of the longest running programs on television; and

WHEREAS, A longtime advocate of the arts, Gilbert Noble was a supporter of The Jazz Foundation of America, hosting the "A Great Night in Harlem" Concert/Benefit for The Jazz Foundation to support The Musicians Emergency Fund; he also served as a member of its Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, Gilbert Edward Noble is survived by his wife, Norma Jean; four daughters, Lynn, Lisa, Leslie and Jennifer; and one son, Chris; as well as eight grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Gilbert Noble leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all he served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Gilbert Edward Noble, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Gilbert E. Noble.