

2013-J142

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Dr. James R. Dumpson, a pioneer in social work, social health and social justice

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to citizens of the State of New York whose lifework and civic endeavor served to enhance the quality of life in their communities and the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James Dumpson of New York City died on Monday, November 5, 2012, at the age of 103; and

WHEREAS, James Dumpson was born on April 5, 1909, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; he was the first of five children born to James and Edyth Dumpson; he was raised in Philadelphia where he attended The Quaker School, Octavius Catto and West Philadelphia High School for Boys; and

WHEREAS, In 1932, James Dumpson graduated from Cheyney Normal School (College) before going on to Temple University and earning graduate degrees from other universities around the world; he was considered one of the oldest living graduates of Cheyney University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James Dumpson's career in the health and human services as a public servant, educator, administrator, social activist, advocate, humanitarian and scholar spanned for more than half a century; his influence on public policy development for the health and human services has been felt across many policy domains at the international, national and local level; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James Dumpson began his career as a caseworker for the Philadelphia Department of Public Welfare; he moved to New York in the late 1930s where he served the City for more than 60 years; and

WHEREAS, Obtaining a number of history-making achievements throughout his lengthy career, Dr. James Dumpson served as the United Nations advisor/chief of training in social welfare to the government of Pakistan from 1953-1954; in 1959, he was named Commissioner of Welfare for the City of New York, becoming the only African American welfare commissioner in the United States; and

WHEREAS, In 1963, President John F. Kennedy appointed Dr. James Dumpson to the Commission on Narcotics and Drug Abuse; in 1976, he was named

Dean of Fordham University's School of Social Work, becoming the first black dean of a nonblack school of social work; Fordham University later named an endowed academic chair in his honor; and

WHEREAS, An advocate and defender of the poor, Dr. James Dumpson was the recipient of numerous awards, including: the New York City Black Agency Executives Lifetime Achievement Award; the New York City Chapter National Association of Social Workers Lifetime Achievement Award and the State Of New York Legislative Resolution "Spirit of Life" Award; in 2009, the New York City Department of Human Service dedicated and named its conference hall, the "Dr. James R. Dumpson Conference Hall"; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James Dumpson distinguished himself in his profession and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James Dumpson's commitment to excellence, and his spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James Dumpson is survived by his wife, Goldie, daughter, Jeree, brother, Reverend Roland Dumpson, and his sister, Doris D. Grundy; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Dr. James Dumpson 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 Dr. James R. Dumpson, a pioneer in social work, social health and social justice; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Dr. James Dumpson.