

2013-J107

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of New York State Court of Appeals Judge Theodore T. Jones, Jr.

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to those singular individuals who devoted their purposeful lives to preserving the rights and protecting the welfare of the citizens of their community and the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to mourn the death of New York State Court of Appeals Judge Theodore T. Jones, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Judge Theodore Jones, Jr., one of seven jurists on New York's top court, died on Monday, November 5, 2012, at the age of 68; and

WHEREAS, Judge Theodore Jones, Jr., became a state Supreme Court Justice in Brooklyn in 1990 and joined the Court of Appeals in 2007 after being nominated by Governor Eliot Spitzer; he was co-chairman of the court's task force on wrongful convictions, which recommended videotaping police interrogations, steps to prevent suggestive police line-ups for witnesses and expanding defense access to DNA evidence; he was the current court's only African-American and chaired its diversity committee; and

WHEREAS, Theodore Jones, Jr., was born on March 10, 1944; his mother was a teacher, and his father worked on the Long Island Railroad, becoming a station master; and

WHEREAS, Judge Theodore Jones, Jr. graduated from Hampton University in Virginia and later joined the United States Army in 1967, serving in the Vietnam War and attaining the rank of Captain; and

WHEREAS, Judge Theodore Jones, Jr. graduated from St. John's University School of Law in 1972; he worked at the Legal Aid Society, focusing on criminal defense work; he was elected twice to the state Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, Judge Theodore Jones, Jr. is survived by his wife, Joan, and sons, Wesley and Theodore III; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to

mourn the death of New York State Court of Appeals Judge Theodore T. Jones, Jr.; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Judge Theodore T. Jones, Jr.