

2015-J234

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION recognizing HARLEM WEEK, a celebration of the 52nd Anniversary of the March on Washington

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend the efforts of those who seek to bring recognition to historical places within the State of New York, and in doing so, help to ensure that the complete history of our State and Nation is preserved and shared with present generations of citizens; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to recognize HARLEM WEEK 2015, a celebration of the 52nd Anniversary of the March on Washington; and

WHEREAS, Known in full as the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, the March on Washington took place on August 28, 1963, in our nation's capital of Washington D.C.; and

WHEREAS, The March on Washington was one of the largest Civil Rights peaceful demonstrations of its time, with well over 200,000 individuals of all races in attendance before the Lincoln Monument, and was one of the first to receive such extensive television coverage; and

WHEREAS, The March on Washington was brought about through the collaboration and coalition of six major Civil Rights Organizations including: the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) led by James Farmer; the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) led by John Lewis; the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters led by A. Philip Randolph; the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) led by Roy Wilkins; and the National Urban League led by Whitney Young, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, The March on Washington was the birthplace of several histor-

ical and famous speeches, specifically Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I have a dream" speech which continues to this day to inspire us to judge individuals not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character; and

WHEREAS, The goals of the March on Washington were to see the passage of effective Civil Rights legislation, an end to racially segregated schools, a comprehensive public works program to create more jobs, the passage of legislation prohibiting racial discrimination in public and private sector hiring, a minimum wage of \$2, and self-governance for the District of Columbia, which at the time had a black majority; and

WHEREAS, The laudable goals of the March on Washington continue to challenge us today; we must always remember the March on Washington and its goals and continue to march and work towards fully achieving them; and

WHEREAS, Without the March on Washington and the Civil Rights Leaders who led the March and continued to fight for racial equity, the exceptional accomplishments and aspirations celebrated at HARLEM WEEK would not exist; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is pleased to have this opportunity to express its highest admiration for the March on Washington and its laudable goals as well as to acknowledge HARLEM WEEK 2015, and all of the individuals who have worked to bring proper attention to a place and time which merits recognition in the grand panorama of the history of our State and Nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to recognize HARLEM WEEK 2015, a celebration of the 52nd Anniversary of the March on Washington.