

## 2015-K134

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating The Reverend Norman Coleman upon the occasion of celebrating his 25th Anniversary as Pastor-Teacher of Burke Avenue Baptist Church

WHEREAS, The character and richness of religious and community life in this noble Empire State is nourished and fulfilled through the faithful concern and selfless devotion of those who would commit their energies and purpose to the ministry of others; and

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body to bring full recognition and just tribute to those individuals who distinguish themselves and the ministry through their unremitting commitment and preeminence of service; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate The Reverend Norman Coleman upon the occasion of celebrating his 25th Anniversary as Pastor-Teacher of Burke Avenue Baptist Church, Bronx, New York, and 30 years of faithful service proclaiming God's mandate for His people; and

WHEREAS, To recognize the milestones of this secular man, a Pastoral Anniversary Banquet will be held in his honor on Friday, March 27, 2015, at the Davenport Club, New Rochelle, New York; the theme for this momentous evening will be "The Man, The Message, The Mission"; and

WHEREAS, A native of Spartanburg, South Carolina, Norman Coleman moved to New York City at an early age; he attended the Community Baptist Church of Bayside, New York, and later the Mt. Olive Baptist Church of Great Neck, New York; and

WHEREAS, While attending the State University of New York at Cortland, Norman Coleman realized God had a greater plan for him; he relocated to Albany, New York, and became active within the Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, serving as both a choir member and church school teacher; while

there, he accepted the call to the gospel ministry and preached his initial sermon; it was then he received his license to preach; and WHEREAS, Reverend Norman Coleman decided to follow his heart and left his job with the Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church to further his education; he attended the American Baptist College in Nashville, Tennessee, and received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Bible and Theology; and WHEREAS, While a student at the American Baptist College, Reverend Norman Coleman attended the Temple Baptist Church; as a member, he taught the Pastor's Class in Church School, and served as Director of Outreach Evangelism, Minister of the Children's Church, and Baptist Doctrine Instructor for the teachers of Temple Baptist Academy; and WHEREAS, After being invited to assist in the ministry at the Walker Memorial Baptist Church in the Bronx, Reverend Norman Coleman relocated to the Bronx and was ordained on Sunday, November 10, 1985; and WHEREAS, As Pastor of Walker Memorial Baptist Church, Reverend Norman Coleman served as Minister for Evangelism, Instructor for New Members Orientation, and Minister of the Youth Church; and WHEREAS, When the late Reverend Frank R. Banks fell ill, Reverend Norman Coleman was called to assume the duties of Pastor at Burke Avenue Baptist Church in the Bronx; since then, he has been the guiding light for the parishioners through his sermons and tutelage; and WHEREAS, For the past 25 years, under the luminous direction of Reverend Norman Coleman, the Burke Avenue Baptist Church has grown spiritually and the members of the congregation have truly benefitted from his profound knowledge and wisdom; and WHEREAS, Currently, Reverend Norman Coleman is serving his second term as President of the Empire Baptist Congress of Christian Education, the teaching arm of the Empire Baptist Missionary Convention of New York, Inc.; and WHEREAS, Formerly, he served as Vice President-at-Large of the Congress, Area IV Vice President of the Empire Baptist Missionary

Convention, and from 1991-2001 Moderator of the Central Hudson Baptist Association; he also conducted seminars in the Empire Baptist Convention, and has taught in the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education; and

WHEREAS, In 2010, Reverend Norman Coleman graduated from the NYPD's Citizens Police Academy; today, he serves as the Treasurer of the 49th Precinct Clergy Council and is a member of the 49th Community Council, as well as a member of the NAACP; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout has been his wife, the former Angelique Beatrice Banks, who feels privileged to be a part of his life and rejoices in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, The Reverend Norman Coleman stands on the threshold of tomorrow, prepared to meet the challenges of the coming decades while retaining that spiritual resolve which characterizes his past; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Reverend Norman Coleman upon the occasion of celebrating his 25th Anniversary as Pastor-Teacher of Burke Avenue Baptist Church, and 30 years of faithful service proclaiming God's mandate for His people, fully confident that this celebration reflects the belief in those values which enhance the dignity and purpose of life; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Reverend Norman Coleman.