

## 2015-J837

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION celebrating the life of Virginia Rawlerson, distinguished citizen and devoted member of her church and community

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, Virginia "Ginny" Rawlerson of Brooklyn, New York, died on Thursday, February 19, 2015, at the age of 81; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Rawlerson was born on August 12, 1934, in Brooklyn, New York, one of six children of Fred William Ramsey, Sr. and Omega Davis Ramsey, who moved to the North in the First Great African American Migration, determined to create a better life for both of them and their children; and

WHEREAS, In 1952, Virginia Rawlerson graduated from Franklin K. Lane High School in Brooklyn, and then went on to earn both her Bachelor of Arts degree and Master's degree in Education; and

WHEREAS, Seven years later, Virginia Rawlerson married her childhood sweetheart, Cleve Rawlerson; she was a loving wife and a doting mother to two children and cherished her role as homemaker, who enjoyed baking delicious cakes, pies, and breads; and

WHEREAS, Spending time with her friends and family brought Virginia Rawlerson unparalleled happiness; she also enjoyed traveling, reading, collecting Lladro figurines, listening to music, and finding household bargains; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Rawlerson distinguished herself in her profession and by her sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of her community; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Rawlerson was employed at McCann Erickson Advertis-

ing Agency, and then as a Paraprofessional at PS 45 in Brooklyn; and  
WHEREAS, Virginia Rawlerson then obtained her Education degree, and  
taught school at both PS 45 and later at PS 86 in Brooklyn; she was a  
4th grade teacher for the majority of her career, always seeking to  
instill in her students the qualities of discipline and precision; and  
WHEREAS, In 1996, Virginia Rawlerson retired from the role of educa-  
tor, and focused her time on her family, especially her two grandchil-  
dren, and her community; and  
WHEREAS, Virginia Rawlerson's commitment to excellence, and her spirit  
of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including char-  
itable and civic endeavors; and  
WHEREAS, Virginia Rawlerson was a faithful member of the Cornerstone  
Baptist Church for more than 60 years; and  
WHEREAS, In 2006, Virginia Rawlerson began volunteering at the Commu-  
nity Outreach Tutorial Program; using her teaching background, she  
tutored students in grades one through eight in both reading and math-  
ematics; and  
WHEREAS, Virginia Rawlerson was a vital member of the P.T.A. of the  
Cornerstone Baptist Church School, and at the time of her death, she  
held the position of P.T.A. Treasurer; she also served on the Planning  
Committee for the Annual Church School's Open House, and for many years,  
she was the Women's Day Captain; and  
WHEREAS, In addition, Virginia Rawlerson's participation in the Cradle  
Roll Department at the Cornerstone Baptist Church School brought her  
immense joy and laughter; and  
WHEREAS, Predeceased by her parents, Fred William Ramsey, Sr. and  
Omega Davis Ramsey, two sisters, Lena Mae Ramsey and Marilyn Ramsey  
Williams, and two brothers, Fred Ramsey, Jr. and Dr. Alvin (Aombaye)  
  
Ramsey, Virginia Rawlerson is survived by one daughter, Karen Ali; a  
son, Kerry (Yolanda) Rawlerson; two grandsons, Rashad and Shariyf Ali;  
one brother, Larry Ramsey; a sister-in-law, Tene Ramsey; six nephews,

Kwame, Cheo, Amilcar (Betsey), Michael (Mary), Kandia (Lisa), and Dedan; a niece, Janice (Stanley); two grandnephews, Izaiah and Osiah; three grandnieces, Kwamilah, Macayla, and Jacqueline; one goddaughter, Donna; five aunts, Evelyn, Carolyn, Rosetta, Susie, and LuRosa; and lifetime friends, Rae Conyers, Thelma Harper, Mary Jane McCoy, Muriel Morton, and Rose Scalabrino; as well as numerous cousins, friends, neighbors, and her Cornerstone Baptist Church Family; and

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

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to celebrate the life of Virginia Rawlerson, distinguished citizen and devoted member of her church and community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Virginia Rawlerson.