

2015-J838

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Earl Lloyd, an outstanding athlete and basketball icon, and recognizing the significance of his life accomplishments

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge and pay tribute to those esteemed individuals within the State of New York who distinguished themselves through outstanding achievements in national athletic competition; and

WHEREAS, Earl Lloyd, born April 3, 1928, in Alexandria, Virginia, died on Thursday, February 26, 2015 at the age of 86; and

WHEREAS, Raised amid rigid segregation, Earl Lloyd was a standout basketball player on some dominant teams at the historically black West Virginia State; a true pioneer, he became the first African-American player to appear in a National Basketball Association (NBA) game; and

WHEREAS, On the evening of October 31, 1950, Earl Lloyd, a rugged six-foot-six, 220-pound forward, made his debut when the Washington Capitols opened their season on the road against the Rochester Royals at Edgerton Park Arena; he scored six points and pulled down a game-high 10 rebounds; and

WHEREAS, Earl Lloyd left the Capitols to honorably serve in the United States Army; he rejoined the league in 1952 with the Syracuse Nationals and became part of the city's extraordinary basketball heritage; and

WHEREAS, During this time, Earl Lloyd, a strong rebounder and tenacious on defense, along with fellow forward Jim Tucker, became the first two black players on an NBA championship team in 1955; he remained with the Nationals until he was traded to Detroit in 1957; and

WHEREAS, Earl Lloyd's illustrious NBA career spanned nine seasons, during which time he averaged 8.4 points and 6.4 rebounds; he was named the Detroit Pistons' Head Coach in 1971, becoming the fourth black head

coach in NBA history; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, he later held an executive position with Chrysler, supervised youth leagues for the Detroit Police Department and counseled students in the city's school system; and

WHEREAS, In 2003, Earl Lloyd was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts for his contributions in breaking the NBA racial barrier; and

WHEREAS, Earl Lloyd is survived by his loving wife, Charlita; his sons, Kenneth, Kevin and David; and four beautiful grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit, imbued with a sense of compassion, and comforted by a loving family, Earl Lloyd 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 Earl Lloyd, an outstanding athlete and basketball icon, and recognize the significance of his life accomplishments; and be it further

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