

2015-J953

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Leonard Nimoy, beloved cultural figure, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor individuals whose commitment and creative talents have contributed immensely to the entertainment and the enrichment of the lives of the people of the State of New York and this Nation; and

WHEREAS, Leonard Nimoy, a beloved actor, director, and writer, most famous for his role as Spock on the television show Star Trek, died on Friday, February 27, 2015, at the age of 83; and

WHEREAS, Born in Boston, Massachusetts, on March 26, 1931, Leonard Simon Nimoy was the second son of Ukrainian immigrants, Max and Dora Nimoy; and

WHEREAS, From the young age of eight, Leonard Nimoy acted in local productions and won parts at a community college, where he performed throughout his high school years; following a summer course at Boston College, he traveled to Hollywood, and later landed small movie roles in "Queen for a Day" and "Rhubarb"; and

WHEREAS, Leonard Nimoy's first starring movie role came in the 1952 film, "Kid Monk Baroni," in which he portrayed a disfigured Italian street-gang leader who becomes a boxer; and

WHEREAS, Leonard Nimoy proudly served his country as a member of the United States Army for two years, rising to the rank of sergeant and spending 18 months at Fort McPherson, Georgia, where he presided over shows for the Army's Special Services branch; and

WHEREAS, Following the completion of his military service, Leonard Nimoy achieved wide visibility in the late 1950s and early 1960s on television shows such as "Wagon Train," "Rawhide" and "Perry Mason"; and

WHEREAS, In 1966, Leonard Nimoy was cast in the original "Star Trek" television series as Mr. Spock, a Vulcan alien serving as first officer on the bridge of the Starship Enterprise; and

WHEREAS, Despite lasting only three seasons, the popularity of "Star Trek" and that of the character Mr. Spock would endure across generations, becoming a cultural phenomenon and inspiring numerous movies, books, and television shows; and

WHEREAS, An integral part of the success of the Star Trek franchise, Leonard Nimoy starred in many of the subsequent films, and also directed the movies, "Star Trek III: The Search for Spock" and "Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home," which he co-wrote; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Leonard Nimoy was the executive producer and a writer of the movie "Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country," and starred in two episodes of the television show "Star Trek: The Next Generation"; and

WHEREAS, From 1977 to 1982, Leonard Nimoy hosted the syndicated series "In Search Of..." which explored mysteries like the Loch Ness monster and U.F.O.s; he also narrated the show, "Ancient Mysteries," appeared in television commercials, and provided his vocal talents to animated features; and

WHEREAS, Leonard Nimoy also directed the hugely successful 1987 comedy "Three Men and a Baby," and received an Emmy nomination for the 1982 movie "A Woman Called Golda," in which he portrayed the husband of Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir; and

WHEREAS, A passionate writer, Leonard Nimoy is the author of two autobiographies, I AM NOT SPOCK and I AM SPOCK, as well as A LIFETIME OF LOVE: POEMS ON THE PASSAGES OF LIFE, published in 2002; and

WHEREAS, In his later years, Leonard Nimoy rediscovered his Jewish heritage and produced and starred in "Never Forget," a television movie based on the story of a Holocaust survivor; he also published SHEKHINA, a book devoted to photography with a Jewish theme; and

WHEREAS, Leonard Nimoy's commitment to excellence and his spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of Nimoy's support of the arts, the Thalia Theatre, a venerable movie theater on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, was renamed the Leonard Nimoy Thalia in 2002; and

WHEREAS, Leonard Nimoy is survived by his wife, Susan Bay Nimoy; two children, Adam and Julie; one stepson, Aaron Bay; six grandchildren; and one great-grandchild; as well as his brother, Melvin; and

WHEREAS, Individuals, such as Leonard Nimoy, who distinguish themselves in their chosen field of endeavor and who, through their creative talents, contribute significantly to its strength, vigor and diversity merit the highest commendation of this Legislative Body; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Leonard Nimoy, beloved cultural figure, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community; and to offer sincerest condolences to his fans, friends, and family members; and be it further RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Leonard Nimoy.