

2015-K268

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring the work of Rodney Leon, designer of The Ark of Return, United Nations permanent memorial to the victims of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade

WHEREAS, Wednesday, March 25, 2015, the United Nations unveils The Ark of Return, permanent memorial to the victims of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade; and

WHEREAS, Rodney Leon, Haitian-American architect, won a competition to design the United Nations memorial to honor the millions of victims of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade in September 2013; and

WHEREAS, The Ark of Return memorial serves as a symbolic reminder to visitors of the lasting legacy and the lingering consequences of slavery and the slave trade upon humanity; and

WHEREAS, The memorial is conceptually organized in three parts and visitors are meant to pass through "The Ark of Return" to intimately experience three primary elements on the interior space; and

WHEREAS, The first element is a three dimensional map inscribed on the interior of the memorial, highlighting the African continent at its center and graphically depicts the global scale, complexity and impact of the triangular slave trade in "acknowledgement of the tragedy"; and

WHEREAS, The second element is a full-scale human figure lying horizontally in front of a wall inscribed with images of the interior of a slave ship, communicating and educating visitors on the physical conditions endured by millions of African people transported under extreme conditions during the middle passage, providing visitors an opportunity to seriously "consider the legacy" of slavery's impact upon humanity; and

WHEREAS, The third element is a triangular reflecting pool, which induces water in a meditative, ritualistic and spiritual manner, invit-

ing visitors to pour libations or say a prayer in memory of the millions of souls that were lost "lest we forget" this monumental and historic tragedy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the victims of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade, consider the legacy of slavery's impact upon humanity and recognize the design of The Ark of Return by New York architect, Rodney Leon; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Rodney Leon.