

2015-J1272

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Marguerite Luez Parkinson, distinguished citizen and devoted member of her 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, Marguerite Luez Parkinson of Brooklyn, New York, died on Thursday, March 12, 2015, at the age of 89; and

WHEREAS, Born on April 17, 1926, in Port Limon, Costa Rica, Marguerite Luez Parkinson was one of 12 children of the late James Altman Dias and Anne Marie Taylor; and

WHEREAS, After a few years in Costa Rica, her family migrated to Jamaica, West Indies; at the young age of 15, Marguerite lost her mother; she then assumed a maternal role, caring for her younger siblings and working to support her family; and

WHEREAS, Marguerite Luez and her sister Gertrude were the owners and operators of a restaurant in Jamaica; on April 29, 1948, she met her future husband, Roland Omar Parkinson; and

WHEREAS, In 1956, Marguerite Luez relocated to Brooklyn, and Roland joined her shortly thereafter; the couple were married on February 1, 1958, at St. Peter Claver Roman Catholic Church; and

WHEREAS, Marguerite and Roland Parkinson's home on 294 Halsey Street, was known as "The Jamaican Ellis Island"; the couple kept an open door policy, no one was turned away; and

WHEREAS, In addition to helping others, Marguerite and Roland Parkinson sponsored many social events which brought family members together, especially during the holidays; every week there was something planned for "Club Ellis Island"; and

WHEREAS, After coming to the United States, Marguerite Luez Parkinson was employed at the Heidi Candy Factory; she was then hired at The Brooklyn Hospital Center where she worked for 25 years, officially retiring at the age of 65; and

WHEREAS, Marguerite Luez Parkinson was also an entrepreneur, selling both Sarah Coventry Jewelry and Tupperware for many years, as well as products from Olympic Sales; and

WHEREAS, Marguerite Luez Parkinson's commitment to excellence, and her spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Active in her community, Marguerite Luez Parkinson was a vital participant of the prestigious Columbiettes, and a faithful volunteer at the St. Peter Claver Roman Catholic Church; she was also a member of the Women's Auxiliary at St. Mary's Hospital, and held the title of Association President of her block within her beloved community of Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn; and

WHEREAS, Marguerite Luez Parkinson was known as a woman of service who lived by her mantra "do all the good you can, for all the people that you can, for as long as you can"; and

WHEREAS, Marguerite Luez Parkinson's commitment to excellence, and her spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Marguerite Luez Parkinson is survived by her loving husband, Roland Parkinson, Sr.; her four devoted children, Charlene, Jennifer (Patrick), Roland, Jr. (Annette), and Vanessa; eight grandchildren, Trescinda, Robert, Sharon, Tiffany, Aiyana, Nicole, Brittney, and Preston; seven great-grandchildren, Andrew, Shantelle, Arianna, Rasohn, Addison, Adonai, and Aaliyah; and her two brothers, Harold and Patrick

(Inez); as well as numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, adopted sons and daughters, and many friends; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of

compassion, Marguerite Luez Parkinson 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 mourn the death of Marguerite Luez Parkinson, distinguished citizen and devoted member of her community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Marguerite Luez Parkinson.