

2015-J1287

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Reverend Joseph H. Walston upon the occasion of his retirement after 10 years of distinguished service to the Calvary Fellowship African Methodist Episcopal Church on April 12, 2015

WHEREAS, The character and richness of religious and community life in this noble Empire State is nourished and fulfilled through the faithful concern and selfless devotion of those who would commit their energies and purpose to the ministry of others; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to bring full recognition and just tribute to those individuals who distinguish themselves and the ministry through their unremitting commitment and preeminence of service; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Reverend Joseph H. Walston upon the occasion of his retirement after 10 years of distinguished service to the Calvary Fellowship African Methodist Episcopal Church in Brooklyn, New York, to be celebrated at a reception, on Sunday, April 12, 2015; and

WHEREAS, Born and raised in Tarboro, North Carolina, Reverend Joseph H. Walston proudly served his country as a member of the United States Army from 1968-1970, 11 of those months in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, Following his discharge, Reverend Joseph H. Walston moved to New York City; in 1983, he became a member of the Bridge Street African Wesleyan Methodist Episcopal (A.W.M.E.) Church in Brooklyn, and served on the ministerial staff from 1985-1993; and

WHEREAS, In December of 1993, Reverend Joseph H. Walston and his family left the Bridge Street A.W.M.E. to create a church congregation in Clinton Hill, Brooklyn; the Fellowship Temple African Methodist Episco-

pal (A.M.E.) Church was officially established on February 21, 1994, in the Chapel located at Pratt Institute, in Brooklyn; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Joseph H. Walston earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in both Psychology and Religion from the College of New Rochelle, New Rochelle, New York; he then went on to obtain a Masters of Divinity degree from New York Theological Seminary in 1996; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Joseph H. Walston was employed by the State of New York for 27 years, including 20 years at the Kingsboro Addiction Treatment Center in Brooklyn; in addition, he serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Promised Land Community Development Corporation; and

WHEREAS, Today, Reverend Joseph H. Walston is known as a gifted organizer and administrator, and is deeply concerned for the spiritual empowerment of everyone; he is passionately devoted to leading the Fellowship Temple A.M.E. Church; and

WHEREAS, For the past 10 years, Reverend Joseph H. Walston rendered faithful, conscientious and valuable service to the Calvary Fellowship African Methodist Episcopal Church, earning the admiration, esteem and affection of his congregation and community; and

WHEREAS, In his capacity as Pastor, Reverend Joseph H. Walston served with loyalty, honor and distinction, and was governed by a keen sense of duty and always showed a unique grasp of human problems in his official acts; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife of 30 years, Reverend Carmen Hawkins-Walston, his four children, Christine, Tracey, Mashona, and Joseph, two grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Joseph H. Walston has brought to his ministry an overwhelming spirit of charity and compassion, acting from vision and enlightenment in conducting his administrative and spiritual duties, while always displaying the highest standards of personal and profes-

sional integrity and dedication; and

WHEREAS, This distinguished man of God has always given enlightenment, guidance and wisdom to the many entrusted to his care and has administered abundantly and unstintingly to the spiritual and corporal needs of all; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Reverend Joseph H. Walston upon the occasion of his retirement, noting his unrelenting and compassionate faith and his exemplary service to God, man, and his community, and extending to him the heartfelt best wishes of this Legislative Body for a future of purposeful success and well-being; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Reverend Joseph H. Walston.