

2015-J2171

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Reverend Dr. Richard H. Dixon, Jr., distinguished minister, civil rights leader and devoted member of his community

WHEREAS, It is with profound sorrow that this Legislative Body, representing the people of the State of New York, is moved this day to pay tribute to a preeminent Baptist leader of indomitable faith and dedication whose purposeful life and accomplishments will forever stand as a paradigm and inspiration for others; and

WHEREAS, A sincere and faithful shepherd of the Baptist Church, Reverend Dr. Richard H. Dixon, Jr. died on Saturday, April 25, 2015, at the age of 92; and

WHEREAS, Born the only son of three children on October 3, 1923 to the late Beulah and Reverend Richard H. Dixon, Jr., Reverend Dr. Richard H. Dixon, Jr. was Pastor Emeritus of the Macedonia Baptist Church; he retired on December 31, 1999, after 41 years of dedicated service to this great church; and

WHEREAS, During his pastorate, Reverend Dr. Richard H. Dixon, Jr. was a pioneer in civil rights, social justice and community affairs; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Richard H. Dixon, Jr, attended Public Schools in Dallas, Texas and Fort Wayne, Indiana before earning a Bachelor of Arts degree from Bishop College, a Bachelor of Theology degree from the American Theological Seminary, and a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Colgate Seminary; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, this esteemed man went on to earn a Doctor of Divinity degree from the University of Detroit, and was a Candidate for a Doctorate Degree from Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his illustrious career, Reverend Dr. Richard H.

Dixon, Jr. was pastor of three churches, First Baptist Church, Lackawanna, New York for four years; Historical Trinity Baptist Church, Pontiac, Michigan for ten years; and Macedonia Baptist Church, Mount Vernon, New York for forty-one years; and

WHEREAS, For several years, Reverend Dr. Richard H. Dixon, Jr. was also assigned as Second Deputy Commissioner of the City of Mount Vernon, and head of the Chaplaincy program of Mount Vernon Police Department where he was a spiritual advisor to thousands of officers for half of a century; and

WHEREAS, A true community leader, Reverend Dr. Richard H. Dixon, Jr. served as President of the Mount Vernon Council of Churches; Westchester Urban League; founder and past president of the United Black Clergy of Mount Vernon; and founder and past president of the Westchester Christian Leadership Conference; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Richard H, Dixon, Jr. had the honor of being selected as part of the group to accompany Dr. Martin Luther King to Oslo, Norway to receive the Nobel Peace Prize; in addition, the People's Republic of China invited him as a guest of the Chinese government to tour, study and exchange views; and

WHEREAS, The recipient of countless awards and accolades, Reverend Dr. Richard H. Dixon, Jr. was once honored to provide opening prayer at the United States Congress in Washington, D.C.; he also served as Chaplain for the New York State Senate and Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Richard H, Dixon, Jr. is survived by his loving wife, First Lady Emeritus Earnestene; four children, Richard III, Sonya, Lori and Carl; two sons-in-law, Mark and George; two granddaughters, Styler and Kayla and four grandsons, James, Dabnus, George, Jr. and Cameron; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Richard H. Dixon, Jr.'s legacy will live forever, not only in the many lives he touched, but in the good works he has left behind; known as the "People's Pastor", he could be found daily

walking the streets of Mount Vernon, the halls of nursing homes and hospitals, and visiting prisons; and

WHEREAS, Truly a man after "God's Own Heart," Reverend Dr. Richard H. Dixon, Jr. was a pastor without walls; his word extended far and wide beyond the boundaries of a church building, city limits, state lines, and the United States shores; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to celebrate the life of this esteemed religious leader who accepted the responsibilities of moral leadership and who dedicated his life to serving others; he will truly be missed by many; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Reverend Dr. Richard H. Dixon, Jr., distinguished minister, civil rights leader and devoted member of his community, as well as rejoice in his life, noting his unrelenting and compassionate faith in his service to God, man and his community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Reverend Dr. Richard H. Dixon, Jr.