

2015-J3313

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of David Bowie, English singer, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, record producer, and actor for more than five decades

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor and pay just tribute to the memory of those prominent individuals whose creative talents have contributed to the entertainment and cultural enrichment of the citizens of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Music legend David Bowie died on Sunday, January 10, 2016, in Manhattan, at the age of 69; and

WHEREAS, Born David Robert Jones on January 8, 1947, he was raised in Brixton, London; at the young age of 13, he became interested in music and started to play the saxophone; and

WHEREAS, In July of 1969, David Bowie released "Space Oddity" which became his first top five entry on the United Kingdom Singles Chart; after a three-year period of experimentation, he resurfaced in the early 1970s, during the glam rock era, with his flamboyant and androgynous alter ego Ziggy Stardust; and

WHEREAS, Ziggy Stardust was spearheaded by his single "Starman" and album "The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars"; the short-lived Ziggy persona proved to be one facet of a career marked by reinvention, musical innovation and visual presentation; and

WHEREAS, In 1975, David Bowie achieved his first major American cross-over success with the number-one single "Fame" and the album "Young Americans"; he moved to Los Angeles, California, and became a fixture of American pop culture; and

WHEREAS, In 1976, he released "Station to Station" which he recorded with the Young Americans band, which subsequently was his highest charting album and contained his second Top 10 single, "Golden Years"; and

WHEREAS, He returned to the U.K. for the first time in three years before settling in Berlin, where he enjoyed painting, studying art and recording with Brian Eno; the great duo's work consisted of "Low", "Heroes" and "Lodger", and was distinguished by its appropriation of avant-garde electronic music and the "cut-up" technique; and

WHEREAS, David Bowie had UK number ones with the 1980 single "Ashes to Ashes", its parent album "Scary Monsters (And Super Creeps)", and "Under Pressure", a 1981 collaboration with Queen; and

WHEREAS, In 1983, this musical icon reached a new commercial peak with "Let's Dance", which yielded several successful singles; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the 1990s and 2000s, David Bowie continued to experiment with musical styles, including industrial and jungle; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his popular music career, David Bowie had a successful but sporadic film career; his acting roles include the eponymous character in "The Man Who Fell to Earth", Major Celliers in "Merry Christmas, Mr. Lawrence", the Goblin King Jareth in "Labyrinth", Pontius Pilate in "The Last Temptation of Christ", and Nikola Tesla in "The Prestige", among other film and television appearances and cameos; and

WHEREAS, David Bowie stopped touring after his 2003-2004 Reality Tour, and last performed live at a charity event in 2006; on January 8, 2016, the date of his 69th birthday, his final studio album "Blackstar" was released; he died two days later; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his storied career he sold an estimated 140 million records worldwide; in the United Kingdom, he was awarded nine Platinum album certifications, 11 Gold and eight Silver and in the United States, five Platinum and seven Gold certifications; he was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1996; and

WHEREAS, David Bowie is survived by his wife, Iman, who he married in 1992, one son, Duncan Jones, and a daughter, Alexandria Zahra Jones; he is also survived by his first wife, Angie Bowie; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to

the lives of those extraordinary artists of world reknown who enriched the lives of others through their artistic endeavors; such an artist was David Bowie, whose extraordinary and innovative career will forever live in the hearts of many and continue to inspire generations to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of David Bowie, English singer, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, record producer, and actor for more than five decades; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of David Bowie.