

2015-J3350

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Barry Sparks, Jr. for over 50 years of dedicated service to his community

WHEREAS, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is proud to commend Barry Sparks, Jr. for over 50 years of dedicated service to his community, celebrated at a Special Recognition Ceremony on October 30, 2015 in Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, In 1950, at the young age of 19, Barry Sparks, Jr. worked as a presser in Mr. Cannon's Dry Cleaning shop; realizing he embodied an entrepreneurial spirit, he bought the business in 1952; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the years, Barry Sparks, Jr. endured many hardships, but was always able to think of the bigger picture and found ways to maximize his investments; and

WHEREAS, Barry Sparks, Jr.'s Dry Cleaners and other stores, were a true asset to the City of Albany, not only providing service to the community, but also employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS, In the 1980s, Barry Sparks, Jr. managed eight different dry cleaners and was one of the few businesses to have equipment on his premises which could do the work other companies were unable to complete; and

WHEREAS, Dedicated to the community in which he worked and lived, Barry Sparks, Jr. was a member of many neighborhood organizations including The Black New Breeds, the Whitney M. Young Medical Center, the

National Cleaners Association, the Hudson River Missionary Baptist Association, the Albany County Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Capital District Business and Professional Association, the State Association of Business/Mentor Program, Urban League, NAACP, and the Masons, as well as the Shriners; and

WHEREAS, Currently, Barry Sparks, Jr. is retired from the dry cleaning industry; he enjoys serving as Chairman of the Deacon Board at Bethany Baptist Church, spending time with his wife of 61 years, Edna, and visiting with his children; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Barry Sparks, Jr. has displayed throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Barry Sparks, Jr. for over 50 years of dedicated service to his community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Barry Sparks, Jr.