

2015-J3979

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Jocelyn C. Cooper posthumously for her distinguished community service on February 23, 2016, in conjunction with the observance of Black History Month

WHEREAS, It is with profound intent that this Legislative Body is moved to pay homage to a woman of indomitable faith and dedication whose purposeful life and accomplishments will forever stand as a paradigm and inspiration for others; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to give acclaim to individuals of great character whose lives exemplify the highest ideals of humanity; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Jocelyn C. Cooper posthumously for her distinguished community service at a Memorial Tribute held in her honor on Tuesday, February 23, 2016, at St. Francis College, Brooklyn, New York, in conjunction with the observance of Black History Month; and

WHEREAS, Jocelyn C. Cooper, an ardent Civil Rights leader and journalist, passed away on December 21, 2015, at the age of 86; and

WHEREAS, Jocelyn Elaine Clopton was born in Jersey City, New Jersey, on January 27, 1929, to Robert Clopton and the former Lina Sullivan; after her parents separated, she was generally raised by her grandparents, who were college educated; and

WHEREAS, Jocelyn E. Clopton attended Lincoln High School in Jersey City, and then moved to Brooklyn as a teenager to live with her future husband's aunt and step-uncle; she joyfully married Andrew W. Cooper in 1949; and

WHEREAS, Jocelyn C. Cooper earned both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Social Work from Adelphi University, Long Island; after grad-

uation, she worked for New York City's Community Development Agency, which later merged with the Department of Youth Services; and WHEREAS, Through grass-roots organizing in the 1960s, Jocelyn C. Cooper and her husband, helped shift New York's black political center of gravity from Harlem to Brooklyn, and established an alternative voice in journalism by confronting the social injustice issues in their community; and

WHEREAS, Immersed in the Civil Rights Movement and heavily involved with politics, Jocelyn C. Cooper, recruited her husband to politics and encouraged him to start THE CITY SUN in Brooklyn in 1984; it was an independent weekly newspaper which wrote editorials about both white and black public figures alike for more than 20 years; and

WHEREAS, In 2003, in loving tribute to her husband, Jocelyn C. Cooper co-founded The Andrew W. Cooper Young Journalists In Training program (YJIT) at St. Francis College, Brooklyn, to preserve his legacy in the Civil Rights Movement and for his role as leader of THE CITY SUN; and

WHEREAS, YJIT program strives to provide today's students with the education, tools, and access needed to follow in its founder's footsteps; this dynamic program assists aspiring journalists and others interested in careers in media in a variety of ways which include classroom lessons, presentations and opportunities for interaction and networking with industry leaders along with an internship; and

WHEREAS, Throughout its 13 year history, the YJIT program has placed 150 St. Francis College students in exceptional internships opportunities at notable organizations such as WABC-TV, WCBS-TV, ABC Television Network, NY1 News (NY1 Noticia), CBS Radio, and THE DAILY NEWS; and

WHEREAS, As the current leader of YJIT, Jocelyn C. Cooper's daughter, Andrea Cooper Andrews, formed the Jocelyn C. Cooper College Connection

(JCC College Connection) in loving memory of her remarkable mother's passion and steadfast commitment to her community; and

WHEREAS, JCC College Connection strives to link college juniors and

graduating seniors who have earned a 3.0 GPA or better, with decision makers who offer solid full-time employment opportunities, in careers of their choice; this vital program will be officially launched at The Jocelyn C. Cooper Memorial Tribute; and

WHEREAS, In addition to her stellar work with YJIT, Jocelyn C. Cooper served as a Trustee of both the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and the Brooklyn Children's Museum; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by her husband in 2002, Jocelyn C. Cooper is survived by her two daughters, Jocelyn and Andrea, and one grandson, as well as one great-grandson; and

WHEREAS, Our society is greatly benefited by the purposeful efforts of individuals who unite for the cause of improving the quality of life for others, and who proactively work toward the goal of dignity for all; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, it is appropriate to publicly proclaim and commend those individuals for the edification and emulation of others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Jocelyn C. Cooper posthumously for her distinguished community service on February 23, 2016, in conjunction with the observance of Black History Month; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Jocelyn C. Cooper.