

2015-J4272

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Rita Dove upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the John Oliver Killens Lifetime Achievement Award by the Center for Black Literature at Medgar Evers College

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body to honor and recognize those individuals whose commitment and creative talents contribute to the cultural enrichment of their communities and of the entire State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Rita Dove upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the John Oliver Killens Lifetime Achievement Award by the Center for Black Literature at Medgar Evers College, to be celebrated at its 13th National Black Writers Conference on Saturday, April 2, 2016, in Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, Rita Dove, former United States Poet Laureate, has been called upon to contribute her time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of herself unstintingly; and

WHEREAS, In 2003, the Center for Black Literature was founded to expand, broaden and enrich the public's knowledge and aesthetic appreciation of the value of Black literature through a series of programs which serve as a forum for the research and study of Black literature; and

WHEREAS, This vital institution convenes and supports various literary programs and events such as author signings, writing workshops, panel discussion, conferences and symposium; it is the only Center in the country devoted to this; and

WHEREAS, The mission of the Center for Black Literature is immeasurable; through the National Black Writers Conferences and other programs

sponsored by the Center, students, scholars, established as well as aspiring writers and poets, and the general public have become more aware of and appreciative of the importance of Black literature and the writers who have made tremendous contributions to the African-American and Western literary canons; and

WHEREAS, Rita Dove, an esteemed honoree of the 13th National Black Writers Conference and its Honorary Chair, truly represents the richness of Black literature and culture, and accordingly merits recognition and applause for her steadfast and unwavering dedication to the arts; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to those individuals who add strength, vigor and inspiration to the cultural diversity and quality of life in the communities of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, It is most fitting that we take time to celebrate the arts of our Nation, to honor our artists, and to express our appreciation to everyone who patronizes the arts; and as we celebrate the arts, we celebrate and give thanks to our American freedom, the only atmosphere in which artists can truly create and in which art is truly the expression of the soul; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Rita Dove upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the John Oliver Killens Lifetime Achievement Award by the Center for Black Literature at Medgar Evers College; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Rita Dove.