

2015-J4325

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of The Honorable Barbara M. Clark, New York State Assemblywoman of the 33rd Assembly District, distinguished citizen and devoted member of her community

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to mourn publicly the death of certain prominent individuals whose valued contributions to their community, their profession served to enhance the quality of life in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, With feelings of deepest regret, this Legislative Body must record the passing of one of New York State's most distinguished citizens, The Honorable Barbara Marlene Clark, who died on Monday, February 22, 2016, at the age of 76; and

WHEREAS, Barbara M. Clark was born on June 12, 1939, in Beckley, West Virginia; she was first elected to the New York State Assembly in November of 1986, representing the constituents of the 33rd Assembly District in Queens, New York; and

WHEREAS, Assemblywoman Barbara M. Clark served as a tireless advocate for the needs of children, families and the elderly; her warm spirit and her firm belief that we all have a responsibility to defend the well-being of our fellow citizens will be remembered by many; and

WHEREAS, An effective leader in education reform, day care and community development, Assemblywoman Barbara M. Clark devoted much of her time to creating institutions, policies, and programs, all designed to foster stability and growth within the 33rd Assembly District; and

WHEREAS, As a leading advocate for parents having a statutory role in education policy-making, Assemblywoman Barbara M. Clark was a primary sponsor of the 1996 New York City School Governance Law, which mandates parental involvement in decision-making; and

WHEREAS, She has been unrelenting in her battle to change New York

State's inadequate and inequitable school finance system and was an early supporter of the Campaign for Fiscal Equity (CFE) v. State of New York lawsuit which helped bring such inequities to the forefront; and WHEREAS, Assemblywoman Barbara M. Clark continuously advocated for a better quality of life for senior citizens in the State of New York; she promoted legislation to safeguard seniors from financial exploitation, telemarketing fraud and predatory lending; she also focused on safety, environmental, transportation and land zoning issues; and WHEREAS, Assemblywoman Barbara M. Clark, throughout her legislative career, held a variety of important positions, including Assistant Majority Whip, a member of the Majority Steering Committee, served on the Health Budget Conference Committee, and Chair of the Education Committee of the New York State Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislative Caucus; furthermore, she chaired the Assembly Standing Committees on Aging, State and Federal Relations and the New York State Legislative Women's Caucus, a bipartisan organization of women legislators from both the Senate and the Assembly; and WHEREAS, On the national level, Assemblywoman Barbara M. Clark served as Vice-Chair of the National Conference of State Legislators' (NCSL) Education, Labor and Job Training Committee, and member of both the Human Services Committee and the Education Partners; and WHEREAS, The Honorable Barbara M. Clark is survived by her husband, Thomas Clark, Jr.; four children, Jan, Crystal, Thomas III, and Brian; and two granddaughters, Taylor and Lauren; and WHEREAS, A woman of great compassion and sensitivity, Assemblywoman Barbara M. Clark's legacy extends far beyond her accomplishments as a successful public servant; her sincere concern for others; her integrity, unconditional friendship and selfless motivation to give of herself, will long stand as a beacon for those who would aspire to service in their community; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to

mourn the death of The Honorable Barbara M. Clark, New York State Assemblywoman of the 33rd Assembly District, recognizing the significance of her exemplary record of public service; and be it further and
RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of The Honorable Barbara M. Clark.