

## 2015-J4400

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Henry J. Carter upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2016 Humanitarian Award by the New York State Association of Black and Puerto Rican Legislators Inc.

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Henry J. Carter upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2016 Humanitarian Award by the New York State Association of Black and Puerto Rican Legislators Inc. which was celebrated at its 45th Legislative Conference held February 12-14, 2016, in Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, Born in Tampa, Florida, Henry J. "Hank" Carter has been a long-time resident of New York City since moving with his family as a young child to live in the Queensbridge Projects in Long Island City; and

WHEREAS, After graduating from Long Island City High School in 1961, Henry J. Carter attended Baruch College for one year, before being drafted into the United States Army in April of 1966; and

WHEREAS, During his time in the military, Henry J. Carter proudly served his country during the Vietnam War from September 1967 to September 1968; he received numerous military honors, and excelled at boxing and basketball, where he was voted the Most Valuable Player; and

WHEREAS, Following the completion of his military service at the esteemed rank of Sergeant, Henry J. Carter returned to civilian life and found that his old neighborhood had been overrun with drugs; and  
WHEREAS, Seeking to make a difference in his community, he worked with neighborhood kids to teach them both basketball and boxing in an effort to provide the youth with a better focus and keep them off the streets; and

WHEREAS, In 1966, Henry J. Carter began working as a teller at the Long Island Savings Bank, where he diligently advanced through the ranks to become Senior Executive Vice President by the time of his retirement; and

WHEREAS, Henry J. Carter has been called upon to contribute his time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of himself unstintingly; since 1972, he has dedicated himself to bettering the lives of the people in wheelchairs; and

WHEREAS, After witnessing a friend become paralyzed, Henry J. Carter has passionately worked as the founder of Wheelchair Charities, Inc. to create a financial support system to enhance the quality of life for the disabled; and

WHEREAS, Over the past 43 years, Wheelchair Charities, Inc. has continuously strived to raise money to benefit people with disabilities by donating such vital equipment as motorized wheelchairs, lightweight wheelchairs, and speed wheelchairs for sports; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Wheelchair Charities, Inc. has purchased computers, televisions, and beds and mattresses, as well as specially equipped buses for day trips around the New York City metropolitan area; they have also constructed new facilities at Goldwater Memorial Hospital including a new weight/exercise room and a greenhouse; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, Henry J. Carter has continued to serve as a leader in the nearby Queensboro Houses, and organized an annual neighborhood fundraising basketball tournament to help support activities for

patients of Goldwater Memorial Hospital; and

WHEREAS, Today, the Wheelchair Basketball Classic is a city-wide competition with both boys and girls divisions which raises funds to purchase a variety of specialized equipment for wheelchair-bound patients; and

WHEREAS, Wheelchair Charities has accomplished so much in the past four decades, but there is always more work that needs to be done; through the generosity of its supporters and with the assistance of its all-volunteer staff, Wheelchair Charities continues to support Roosevelt Island's Coler Facility; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of Henry J. Carter's devotion and tireless dedication to New Yorkers with disabilities, the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation named a hospital and nursing facility in his honor; the Henry J. Carter Specialty Hospital and Nursing Facility truly benefits New York City's neediest paraplegic and quadriplegic patients; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of his community service, a period of constructive involvement, Henry J. Carter has stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Henry J. Carter 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 honor Henry J. Carter upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2016 Humanitarian Award by the New York State Association of Black and Puerto Rican Legislators Inc.; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Henry J. Carter.