

2015-K1407

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION celebrating the life and accomplishments of The Honorable Barbara M. Clark, New York State Assemblywoman of the 33rd Assembly District

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those individuals of distinguished purpose whose lives were committed to public service and the pursuit of excellence in the conduct of the legislative process in this great Empire State; 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, Born on June 12, 1939, in Beckley, West Virginia, Barbara M. Clark 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, Concerned for her Queens community and the quality of life of its residents, 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, This empathy coupled with her determined spirit, drove her to become an effective leader in education reform, day care and community development; working with the community, she 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, In addition, 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 sincere condolences of this Legislative Body are offered in great respect and loving honor to Barbara M. Clark's treasured family; she is survived by her husband, Thomas Clark, Jr.; three children,

Crystal, Thomas III, and Brian; and two granddaughters, Taylor and Lauren; she was predeceased by her daughter, Jan; and

WHEREAS, Every citizen in New York State has most certainly benefited, in one way or another, from the deep dedication, intelligence and

passion that Assemblywoman Barbara M. Clark brought to her work as a legislator and public policy-maker; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to celebrate the life and accomplishments of The Honorable Barbara M. Clark, New York State Assemblywoman of the 33rd Assembly District; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of The Honorable Barbara M. Clark.