

2015-J6023

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Susannah Mushatt Jones, distinguished citizen and devoted member of her community

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to citizens of the State of New York whose lifework and civic endeavor served to enhance the quality of life in their communities and the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Susannah Mushatt Jones, the world's oldest person, died on Thursday, May 12, 2016, at the age of 116 years, 311 days; she was the last known American to have been born in the 1800s; and

WHEREAS, Affectionately known as Miss Susie, Susannah Mushatt Jones lived in a senior home in Brooklyn, New York, for more than three decades; and

WHEREAS, Born in a small farm town near Montgomery, Alabama, in 1899, Susannah Mushatt Jones was one of 11 siblings and attended a special school for young African-American girls; and

WHEREAS, Upon her graduation from high school in 1922, Susannah Mushatt Jones worked full time helping family members pick crops; she left after a year to begin working as a nanny, heading north to New Jersey and eventually making her way to New York; and

WHEREAS, Susannah Mushatt Jones distinguished herself in her profession by her sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of her community; and

WHEREAS, After she moved to New York, Susannah Mushatt Jones worked with a group of her fellow high school graduates to start a scholarship fund for young African-American women to go to college; she also was active in her public housing building's tenant patrol until she was 106; and

WHEREAS, Susannah Mushatt Jones was married for about five years and,

although she never had any children of her own, she has more than 100 nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, This centenarian's commitment to excellence, and her spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit, imbued with a sense of compassion, and comforted by a loving family, Susannah Mushatt Jones leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all she served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Susannah Mushatt Jones, distinguished citizen and devoted member of her community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Susannah Mushatt Jones.