

2015-J6058

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Jesse Edward Nash, Jr., distinguished citizen and devoted member of his 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, Jesse Edward Nash, Jr., longtime Canisius College professor, community activist and the son of the pastor of the historic Michigan Street Baptist Church, died Wednesday, May 11, 2016, at the age of 90; and

WHEREAS, A Buffalo native, Jesse Edward Nash, Jr. attended School 32 and graduated from Hutchinson-Central Technical High School; and

WHEREAS, A Korean War-era veteran of the United States Army, Jesse Edward Nash, Jr. was a professor in the Sociology/Anthropology Department at Canisius College for 33 years; he retired in 1998 as professor emeritus; and

WHEREAS, In 1966, Jesse Edward Nash, Jr. earned a Master's degree in Sociology and Anthropology from the University at Buffalo, and was recognized for research excellence at graduation; and

WHEREAS, One year later, Jesse Edward Nash, Jr. began his illustrious career as the executive director and program developer of Buffalo Model Cities component of the federal program which sought to improve the physical, social and economic well-being of inner-city residents across the nation; and

WHEREAS, Jesse Edward Nash, Jr. was also instrumental in citizen participation in other civic projects, including the Buffalo Waterfront Alternatives Study, War Memorial Stadium Restoration Project and the Erie Community College City Campus feasibility study for a new physical

education facility; and

WHEREAS, From 1969 to 1973, Jesse Edward Nash, Jr. served as a lecturer in the department of Social, Philosophical and Historical Foundations at the University of Buffalo's School of Graduate Education; he also lectured on sociology, African-American studies, architecture and planning at Harvard, Cornell, Carnegie Mellon and McMaster Universities; and WHEREAS, Jesse Edward Nash, Jr. also played a key role in establishing the health center on Buffalo's East Side that was dedicated in his name in 1972; and

WHEREAS, Assistant vice president and affirmative action officer at the University of Buffalo's Office of Finance and Management from 1975 to 1980, Jesse Edward Nash, Jr. then became president of Seventy-Eight Restoration, an organization concerned with neighborhood preservation and economic development, and helped forge the development of the Emerson Row apartments for low-income people; and

WHEREAS, Musically inclined, Jesse Edward Nash, Jr. learned to play several instruments, including clarinet and piano, by ear; during the late 1980s and early 1990s, he played trumpet in the Expansions, a trio including his two sons; and

WHEREAS, Jesse Edward Nash, Jr. organized and directed the Jesse Nash 40 Voices choir, which was the first choral group to appear on television in Buffalo on WBEN on Christmas Day in 1948; he was an active member of St. Philip's Episcopal Church since 1978; and

WHEREAS, Jesse Edward Nash, Jr. was the proud recipient of numerous awards and accolades including University of Buffalo's Haupt Award for undergraduate sociological research in 1958; doctor of humane letters from Canisius College and President's Medal in 1972; Evers-Young Award from the Buffalo Urban League in 1975; University of Buffalo's Presi-

dent's Award in 1980; Educator of the Year from the New York State Black and Puerto Rican Caucus in 1989; Medgar Evers Award from the Buffalo Branch NAACP in 1990; Martin Luther King Jr. Award in 1991; Governor's

Award for Distinguished Blacks in New York State in 1993; and the Red Jacket community service award from the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society in 1994; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed man was a member of Alpha Sigma Nu, the Jesuit National Honor Society, the New York State Retired Teachers Association and Omega Psi Phi fraternity; a life member of the NAACP, he also served as vice president of Buffalo Urban League; and

WHEREAS, Jesse Edward Nash, Jr. served on the College Council of SUNY Buffalo State and the New York State Commission on Minorities in the Health-related Professions in Higher Education; in addition, he served on the boards of Child and Family Services, Millard Fillmore Gates Hospital, Erie County Industrial Development Agency, Local 533 American Federation of Musicians and Colored Musicians Club; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his parents, the Reverend Dr. Jesse Edward, Sr. and Frances Jackson Nash, Jesse Edward Nash, Jr. is survived by his wife of 65 years, Hortense; two sons, Jesse Edward, III and George Raymond, one daughter, Deborah (Jonathan Sr.); and a host of other relatives and cherished friends; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Jesse Edward Nash, Jr. leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all he served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Jesse Edward Nash, Jr., distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Jesse Edward Nash, Jr.