

2015-K1466

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Jesse Edward Nash, Jr.
retired Canisius College Professor

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to honor the life and accomplishments of individuals whose enduring commitment and dedication significantly enhanced the quality of education in their community; and

WHEREAS, With deep regret this Legislative Body records the passing of Jesse Edward Nash, Jr. retired Canisius College Professor, on Wednesday, May 11, 2016, at the age of 90; and

WHEREAS, Professors, such as Jesse Edward Nash, Jr., who work to improve our colleges and ensure that every student has access to a quality education, merits the highest commendation of this Legislative Body; and

WHEREAS, A Buffalo, New York, native, Jesse Edward Nash, Jr. was born on February 22, 1926; he attended School 32 and graduated from Hutchinson-Central Technical High School; and

WHEREAS, After graduation, Jesse Edward Nash, Jr. proudly served his country as a member of the United States Army during the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, In 1965, Jesse Edward Nash, Jr. joined the faculty at Canisius College in Buffalo, where he taught Sociology and Anthropology for 33 years before his retirement in 1998; and

WHEREAS, In 1966, Jesse Edward Nash, Jr. earned his Master's degree in sociology/anthropology from the University at Buffalo, where he was recognized for his excellent research efforts at his graduation; and

WHEREAS, Dedicated to the community in which he lived, worked and played, Jesse Edward Nash, Jr. served as both the Executive Director and Program Developer of the 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, During this time, Jesse Edward Nash, Jr. was instrumental in procuring citizen participation in other civic projects such as 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, In 1972, Jesse Edward Nash, Jr. was recognized for his key role in establishing the health center on Buffalo's East Side which was dedicated in his name; and

WHEREAS, From 1969-1973, 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; in addition, he spoke about sociology, African-American studies, architecture and planning at prestigious schools such as Harvard, Cornell, Carnegie Mellon and McMaster Universities; and

WHEREAS, Two years later, Jesse Edward Nash, Jr. held the title of Assistant Vice President/Affirmative Action Officer of the University at Buffalo's Office of Finance and Management, a position he held until 1980; and

WHEREAS, In 1978, Jesse Edward Nash, Jr. became the President of Seventy-Eight Restoration, an organization concerned with neighborhood preservation and economic development; in this capacity, he 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 by ear including the clarinet and piano; during the late 1980s and early 1990s, he played trumpet in the Expansions, a trio which also included his sons Jesse III on keyboards and George on drums; and

WHEREAS, Jesse Edward Nash, Jr. also 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; and

WHEREAS, For his steadfast and unremitting commitment to his profes-

sion and community, Jesse Edward Nash, Jr. was the recipient of numerous awards and accolades including Doctor of Humane Letters and the 1972 President's Medal by Canisius College, the 1991 Martin Luther King Jr. Award, the 1958 Haupt Award for undergraduate sociological research and the 1980 President's Award by the University at Buffalo, the 1975 Evers-Young Award by the Buffalo Urban League, the 1989 Educator of the Year by the New York State Black and Puerto Rican Caucus, the 1990 Medgar Evers Award by the Buffalo Branch NAACP, and the 1993 Governor's Award for Distinguished Blacks in New York State, as well as the 1994 Red Jacket Community Service Award by the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society in 1994; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable educator was also a member of the state Retired Teachers Association, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, and Alpha Sigma Nu, the Jesuit national honor society; he was a member of the College Council of SUNY Buffalo and the New York State commission on Minorities in the Health-related Professions in Higher Education; and

WHEREAS, A life member of the NAACP, Jesse Edward Nash, Jr. served as Vice President of the Buffalo Urban League, and was a vital Board member 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, Since 1978, Jesse Edward Nash, Jr. was a faithful member of St. Philip's Episcopal Church; and

WHEREAS, Jesse Edward Nash, Jr. is survived by his wife of 65 years, the former Hortense Butts; two sons, Jesse III and George; and one daughter, Deborah Nash Franklin; and

WHEREAS, Over the course of his long and distinguished career, Jesse Edward Nash, Jr. touched the lives of thousands of people, and the Buffalo community he served; he leaves a legacy of learning and commitment which will long endure; and

WHEREAS, It is with profound sorrow and deep regret that this Legislative Body is moved to mourn the death of Jesse Edward Nash, Jr. a man of

great faith, compassion and achievement; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to pay tribute to the memory of Jesse Edward Nash, Jr., to celebrate his life, and to acknowledge the significance of his contributions to education in Buffalo, New York and the entire State of New York; and be it further

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