

2015-J6474

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION celebrating the life and legacy of Dwayne Alonzo "Pearl" Washington

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge those outstanding individuals who have gone before us, and who have distinguished themselves in their professional and personal lives through their unwavering passion, dedication and substantial contributions to their communities and this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to celebrate the life and legacy of Dwayne Alonzo "Pearl" Washington who died on April 20, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Born on January 6, 1964, Dwayne Alonzo "Pearl" Washington was an iconic college and professional basketball player, who was raised in Brooklyn and became a phenomenon on the court; he was named the No. 1 overall high school player in the United States in 1983; and

WHEREAS, In 1983, Pearl Washington brought his skills to Syracuse University, where the 6'2" guard would become one of the most electrifying players in the history of the Syracuse Men's Basketball program; among his many signature moves was what was known as the "shake and bake," in which he would leave his defensive opposition standing still while he drove the ball to the hoop for a layup; and

WHEREAS, Pearl Washington, who possessed amazing ball handling skills, an uncanny court sense, and the ability to pull off unbelievable plays, made national headlines on January 24, 1984, at a game against Boston College; and

WHEREAS, During the intense game against Boston College, Pearl Washington raced down the court and sank a shot from the center jump circle, allowing Syracuse University to win the game with a score of 75-73 at

the buzzer; and

WHEREAS, Over the course of his three-year career at Syracuse University, Pearl Washington averaged 15.6 points, 6.7 assists, and 2.7 rebounds; he tallied 1,490 career points in three years, which is a total that still ranks 25th on the school's scoring list; and

WHEREAS, Pearl Washington was named the Big East Rookie of the Year, a First Team Big East Player all three seasons of his college career, and an All-American his junior year at Syracuse University; and

WHEREAS, In 1986, Pearl Washington was drafted by the New Jersey Nets in the 1st round (13th pick) of the National Basketball Association (NBA) draft, and he played for the Nets for two seasons; and

WHEREAS, Pearl Washington also played for the Rapid City Thrillers and the San Jose Jammers in the Continental Basketball Association; and

WHEREAS, In 2004, Pearl Washington was named to the Big East Conference 25th Anniversary first team, and his uniform No. 31 was retired by Syracuse University on March 2, 1996; furthermore, Pearl Washington was named a Syracuse Letterwinner of Distinction in 2014; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Pearl Washington was a champion off the basketball court, being actively involved in numerous charitable and community endeavors, and was described by SU Men's Basketball Coach Jim Boeheim, and many others, as one of the most humble players and human beings; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor and remember the life and legacy of Dwayne Alonzo "Pearl" Washington; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Dwayne Alonzo "Pearl" Washington.