

2015-K1568

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Marcus O. Brown, Sr. for his outstanding service to the black community to be celebrated at a Juneteenth Event on June 18, 2016

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

WHEREAS, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Marcus O. Brown, Sr. for his outstanding service to the black community to be celebrated at a Juneteenth Event on Saturday, June 18, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Growing up on the East Side of Buffalo, New York, Marcus O. Brown, Sr. graduated from Bennett High School before attending Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, After taking a job as a teacher's aide at Clinton Junior High School, now known as Buffalo Academy for the Visual and Performing Arts, the principal noticed his exceptional talents as he worked with students with special needs, and convinced Marcus to return to school and become a teacher; and

WHEREAS, Marcus O. Brown, Sr. earned his Bachelor's degree and his Master's degree from the University at Buffalo and The State University of Buffalo respectively; and

WHEREAS, After teaching students with special needs in the Buffalo Public School system for more than 40 years, Marcus O. Brown, Sr. retired in 2002; he continues to work part time at Erie County Health

Care Center; and

WHEREAS, A true asset to the community, Marcus O. Brown, Sr. has served as a football coach for inner-city youth, and as director and co-founder of the Crusaders Marching Unit for more than 42 years; he is co-founder of the New York State Drill Team Championships and Step Show, board member of the N.I.C.Y.O., a member of the Board of Directors for H.O.M.E., and has served as President of the Juneteenth Festival Inc. for over 23 years; and

WHEREAS, Marcus O. Brown, Sr. has been the proud recipient of numerous awards and accolades from such organizations as the Mad Dads, National Inner Cities Youth Opportunities (NICYO), and the Common Council; in addition, he was selected as one of the Black Achievers in 2005; and

WHEREAS, A faithful member of the Mount Olive Baptist Church, Marcus O. Brown, Sr. sings in the Male Choir and the Combine Choir; he also sings in an R&B group called the Old School B-Boys; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Gail, and three children, Marcus Jr., Precious and Langston, as well as nine grandchildren, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Marcus O. Brown, Sr. has displayed throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Marcus O. Brown, Sr. for his outstanding service to the black

community to be celebrated at a Juneteenth Event on June 18, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be tran-

mitted to Marcus O. Brown, Sr.