

2019-J2713

Senate Resolution No. 2713

BY: Senator HARCKHAM

MOURNING the death of Judith Johnson, prominent educator, 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 endeavors served to enhance the quality of life in their communities and the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Judith Johnson of New Hempstead, New York, died on Tuesday, October 22, 2019, at the age of 80; and

WHEREAS, Starting her career as a teacher in the New York City schools, Judith Johnson went on to serve in administrative roles for the Mamaroneck, Southern Westchester BOCES, Nyack, and White Plains school systems; and

WHEREAS, Judith Johnson's immaculate career included a tenure in the United States Department of Education under President Bill Clinton, first serving as Deputy Assistant Secretary and later as the Acting Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education; and

WHEREAS, Following this endeavor, Judith Johnson returned to New York State and served as Superintendent of Peekskill schools from 2001 to 2011, and interim Superintendent of Mount Vernon Schools from 2012 to 2014; and

WHEREAS, In 2008, Judith Johnson was named New York State School Superintendent of the Year, making her the first African American to

receive this auspicious award from the New York State Council of School Superintendents; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, in 2015, Judith Johnson was inducted into the Rockland County Civil Rights Hall of Fame; that same year, she was chosen by legislative leaders to represent the 9th Judicial District on the Board of Regents, which creates educational policy; and

WHEREAS, A true pillar in her community, Judith Johnson was often seen at schools, nonprofits, and community events; this extraordinary woman truly cared about the life and well-being of all the students and families she came in contact with; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Judith Johnson 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 Judith Johnson, prominent educator, distinguished citizen, and devoted member of her community, and to acknowledge all the work she did over her illustrious career to nurture the hearts and minds of young New Yorkers in the Lower Hudson Valley; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Judith Johnson.