

## 2019-J3078

Senate Resolution No. 3078

BY: Senator MONTGOMERY

HONORING Otto Neals upon the occasion of his  
designation as recipient of the 2019 Tohma Y.  
Faulkner Arts and Culture Trailblazer Award

WHEREAS, Individuals who give of their time and energies and serve  
the best interests of their communities are an asset beyond remuneration  
and cannot be sufficiently extolled; and

WHEREAS, Otto Neals has given not only of his time and energies but  
also of his competence, intelligence and leadership and consequently has  
been designated for special honor; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Otto Neals  
upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2019 Tohma Y.  
Faulkner Arts and Culture Trailblazer Award, given to him at the 2019  
Bed-Stuy Alive! Festival on Saturday, October 12, 2019, in  
Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, Otto Neals, a native of South Carolina, migrated to the  
great state of New York at the age of four where simultaneously, he  
first found his love for the arts with painting; he spent most of his  
career working as an illustrator at the Brooklyn Post Office, and  
pursued independent art projects on nights and weekends; and

WHEREAS, It was at George Westinghouse Vocational High School in Brooklyn, where Otto Neals first studied commercial art; from there he briefly attended the Brooklyn Museum Art School before studying the art of printmaking at the Bob Blackburn Printmaking Workshop with such illustrious instructors as Mohammed Khalil, Roberto DeLomanica and Krishna Reddy; and

WHEREAS, In addition to painting in oils, watercolors, pastels, and printmaking, Otto Neals is also dually proficient in wood and stone carving; the late Vivian Schuyler Key presented him with his first set of stone carving tools and was influential in his career; and

WHEREAS, Otto Neals has been commissioned to execute several public works projects over the years including ten bronze plaques for the Harlem Walk of Fame on 135th Street, a 20-foot mural in Kings County Hospital, a life-sized sculpture for the Brooklyn Children's Museum, and a bronze sculpture of Percy Sutton at the City University of New York; and

WHEREAS, A bronze monument, commissioned by the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation, was installed as the centerpiece of the Imagination Playground in Prospect Park; this bronze work earned Otto Neals the New York City Art Commission's Award for Excellence in Design; and

WHEREAS, Otto Neals' work spans not only this great Empire State, but the United States at large; his work can be found at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C., Howard University in Washington D.C., The Columbia Museum, in South Carolina, as well as in the private

collections of United States Congressman John Lewis, Harry Belafonte, and Oprah Winfrey; and

WHEREAS, Now in his 80's, Otto Neals is still a resident of Crown Heights, Brooklyn, and still to this day enjoys creating art just as he has done for over 76 years; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom 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 Otto Neals upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the 2019 Tohma Y. Faulkner Arts and Culture Trailblazer Award; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Otto Neals.