

2019-J3113

Senate Resolution No. 3113

BY: Senator PARKER

MOURNING the death of Dr. Joseph E. Lowery,
revered civil rights icon, devoted family man and
dedicated member of his community

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to
citizens whose lifework and civic endeavor served to enhance the quality
of life in their communities and the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, With feelings of deepest regret, this Legislative Body
records the passing of Dr. Joseph E. Lowery, revered civil rights icon,
devoted family man and dedicated member of his community, who died on
Friday, March 27, 2020, at the age of 98; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Lowery was born to Leroy and Dora Lowery on October
6, 1921, in Huntsville, Alabama; his mother was a teacher and his father
owned a small business; and

WHEREAS, Joseph E. Lowery, who graduated from William Hooper Council
High School, went on to attend Knoxville College and Alabama A & M
College, before graduating from Paine College; and

WHEREAS, Believing ministry was his true calling, Joseph E. Lowery
attended ministerial training at Payne Theological Seminary in
Wilberforce, Ohio; he then completed his Doctor of Divinity degree at

the Chicago Ecumenical Institute; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Joseph E. Lowery would eventually become a pastor in several churches, among them, the Warren Street United Methodist Church in Mobile, Alabama, and Central United Methodist Church in Atlanta, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, By 1950, Dr. Joseph E. Lowery was fully involved in the brewing civil rights movement; two years later, along with Dr. Martin Luther King, they founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, an organization devoted to human rights; and

WHEREAS, In 1965, at the request of Dr. Martin Luther King, Dr. Joseph E. Lowery participated in the historical march from Selma to Montgomery; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Joseph E. Lowery's determination to continue to carry the torch of the civil rights movement led him to the founding of the Black Leadership Forum, an organization which played a key role in protesting apartheid in South Africa; and

WHEREAS, In 1997, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) christened Dr. Joseph E. Lowery the "Dean of the civil rights movement"; when he was 69 years-old, Ebony magazine named him, One of the 15 Greatest Preachers; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed Reverend was known for his sense of humor, captivating delivery, and fiery skill with words, all of which he demonstrated at President Barack Obama's inauguration; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his wife, Evelyn (Gibson) Lowery, Dr. Joseph

E. Lowery is survived by his three daughters, Yvonne, Karen, and Cheryl; and his two sons, Joseph Jr. and LeRoy III; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Dr. Joseph E. Lowery leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all he served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Dr. Joseph E. Lowery, and to express its deepest condolences to his family; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Dr. Joseph E. Lowery.