

2019-J3143

Senate Resolution No. 3143

BY: Senator PARKER

MOURNING the death of Dr. James Wilson, one of the first Dominican Republican physicians to open a clinic in the United States, distinguished citizen and devoted 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, Dr. James Wilson, one of the first Dominican Republican physicians to open a clinic in the United States, died on Monday, April 6, 2020, at the age of 93, due to complications related to the novel coronavirus; and

WHEREAS, James Wilson grew up in a poor area of Barahona called the Batey, the heart of the sugarcane industry; and

WHEREAS, As a child, James Wilson read every book he could get his hands on and became fluent in English; he then tutored wealthier neighbors, which helped finance his pursuit of a medical degree; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James Wilson came to America in 1958 after finishing medical school at the Universidad Autonoma de Santo Domingo Medical School in the Dominican Republic; and

WHEREAS, After completing his residency in New York City, Dr. James Wilson returned to his hometown of Barahona to work as a medical director at a local hospital; he wanted to give back to the town he grew up in; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James Wilson and his bride, Nilda, immigrated to Washington Heights, where he opened one of the first clinics run by a Dominican physician; he operated the clinic for 40 years; and

WHEREAS, Affectionately known as El Profe or The Professor by many, Dr. James Wilson helped sponsor many Dominican physicians who were just beginning their careers; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James Wilson distinguished himself in his profession and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James Wilson's commitment to excellence, and his spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Dr. James Wilson 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. James Wilson, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Dr. James Wilson.