

2021-J2108

Senate Resolution No. 2108

BY: Senator PARKER

COMMENDING The Center for Black Literature upon the occasion of hosting its 16th National Black Writers Conference, and paying tribute to this year's honoree Eddie S. Glaude Jr.

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body, in keeping with its time-honored traditions, to recognize and pay tribute to those organizations which foster ethnic pride and enhance the profile of cultural diversity which strengthens the fabric of the communities of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend The Center for Black Literature upon the occasion of hosting its 16th National Black Writers Conference, and to pay tribute to this year's honoree Eddie S. Glaude Jr., at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, This year's honoree is a well-known convener of conversations and debates; Eddie S. Glaude Jr. takes care to engage fellow citizens of all ages and backgrounds from young activists, to fellow academics, journalists and commentators, and followers on Twitter in dialogue about the direction of the nation; his scholarship and his sense of himself as a public intellectual are driven by a commitment to think carefully with others in public; and

WHEREAS, The theme for this year's event is entitled "The Beautiful Struggle: Black Writers Lighting the Way"; events will be held live and virtually on Wednesday, March 30 - Saturday, April 2, 2022; and

WHEREAS, An intellectual who speaks to the complex dynamics of the American experience, Eddie S. Glaude Jr. has written many significant and noteworthy books, *Democracy in Black: How Race Still Enslaves the American Soul*, and *In a Shade of Blue: Pragmatism and the Politics of Black America*, to name a few; he takes a wide look at black communities, the difficulties of race in the United States, and the challenges our democracy faces; and

WHEREAS, This extraordinary man is also the author of two edited volumes, and many influential articles about religion for academic journals, as well as writing for *The New York Times* and *Time Magazine*; and

WHEREAS, Eddie S. Glaude Jr., the James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor and chair of the Department of African American Studies is also the former president of the American Academy of Religion, and among his many awards and accolades is the Modern Language Association's William Sanders Scarborough Book Prize; and

WHEREAS, Described as the quintessential Morehouse man, Eddie S. Glaude Jr. left his home in Moss Point, Mississippi at the age of 16 to begin studies at the HBCU; he holds both a master's degree in African

American Studies from Temple University, as well as a Ph.D. in Religion from Princeton University; and

WHEREAS, Eddie S. Glaude Jr. began his illustrious teaching career at Bowdoin College; in 2015, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from

Colgate University, delivering commencement remarks titled, "Turning Our Backs", that was recognized by The New York Times as one of the best commencement speeches of the year; and

WHEREAS, A columnist for Time Magazine and a MSNBC contributor on programs like "Morning Joe", and "Deadline Whitehouse with Nicolle Wallace", as well as appearing on "Meet the Press on Sundays"; and

WHEREAS, Attendees of the conference will also examine the instrumental role Black writers have played in building Black cultural history, the imprint that this has left in Black literature, and how the literature of Black writers has impacted present-day and future generations; and

WHEREAS, Lastly, writers will examine how their beliefs and personal vigorous actions are used to support the political and social change they want to see take place in today's society; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when literary and cultural organizations 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 commend The Center for Black Literature upon the occasion of hosting its 16th National Black Writers Conference, and to pay tribute to this year's honoree Eddie S. Glaude Jr.; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Center for Black Literature.