

2021-J2199

Senate Resolution No. 2199

BY: Senator GAUGHRAN

MOURNING the death of The Honorable Toni A. Bean, second African American woman to serve as Suffolk County district judge, and devoted member of her community

WHEREAS, There are certain outstanding members of our community who, through their selfless commitment and dedication, served to better the quality of life in their community and had a measurable positive impact on the lives of its residents; Toni A. Bean was one such individual; and

WHEREAS, The Honorable Toni A. Bean of Amityville, New York, died on Saturday, March 19, 2022, at the age of 62; and

WHEREAS, A lifelong Amityville resident, Toni A. Bean was born on April 30, 1959; she was the second African American woman to serve as a Suffolk County District Court judge; and

WHEREAS, In June of 2004, Toni A. Bean was appointed to Suffolk's district court and was later elected in November; she followed Judge Francel Trotter Bellinger, of North Babylon, as the second African American woman to serve in this capacity; and

WHEREAS, Judge Toni A. Bean dealt with many cases including domestic violence and probation violations, and always handled them with dignity and fairness, a staple of the way she lived her life; and

WHEREAS, She holds a special place in the hearts of many who had the privilege of working with her or appearing before her as well as a special place in the history of Suffolk County courts; and

WHEREAS, Toni A. Bean graduated from Amityville public schools and continued her education at SUNY Brockport, where she majored in accounting and received a bachelor's degree in 1981; and

WHEREAS, She earned her law degree from Howard University School of Law in 1985 and was admitted to the New York State Bar a year later; and

WHEREAS, Before joining the Suffolk County bench, her illustrious legal career began at Walker & Bailey Esqs., where she worked with her late aunt Cora T. Walker, who was a prominent lawyer in Harlem; and

WHEREAS, Toni A. Bean, Esq. joined the firm of Waxman & Wincott P.C. on Long Island and eventually opened her own legal practice in Amityville, specializing in personal injury litigation, real estate transactions and wills and estates; and

WHEREAS, Her work surpassed the courtroom as she was involved in numerous organizations, including serving as a chairperson of the North Amityville Housing and Rehabilitation Association; a lifetime member of the Central Long Island Branch NAACP; a former member of the Town of Babylon Youth Court Advisory Committee; and former trustee of the Amityville school board; and

WHEREAS, The Honorable Toni A. Bean was also an active guest speaker at local schools, mentored young lawyers of color and spearheaded Black History Month and Hispanic Heritage celebrations at Suffolk courts; she always reached back to help others, so as other African American judges came onto the bench, she was a mentor to them and provided support and

encouraged them through their journey; and

WHEREAS, Toni A. Bean was detail-oriented and a highly efficient judge who opened the doors for many; she showed many that excellence is always appropriate; and

WHEREAS, With decades of service on the bench, Judge Toni A. Bean was someone of the highest integrity, and her tenacity and dedication to the people of her community was unmatched; and

WHEREAS, She was the recipient of numerous awards and accolades from religious, educational and government organizations, but Toni A. Bean's biggest and proudest accomplishment was her 14-year-old son, Matthew; and

WHEREAS, In addition to her son, Judge Toni A. Bean is survived by her two sisters, Lisa Bean-Johnson and Jane Bean-Folkes; and two nephews, Brian Johnson and Aaron Johnson; as well as a host of other family members and countless friends in both New York and Bermuda; and

WHEREAS, The Honorable Toni A. Bean will be remembered as a revered lawyer, educator and judge, but more importantly as a courteous, thoughtful, and compassionate woman who treated people with respect and dignity; she will be deeply missed and truly merits the grateful tribute of this Legislative Body; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of The Honorable Toni A. Bean, and to express its deepest condolences to her family; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of The Honorable Toni A. Bean.

