

2021-J2690

Senate Resolution No. 2690

BY: Senator COONEY

MOURNING the death of Gloria Langston, pioneer of radio, prominent leader in media, admired storyteller, and devoted member of her community

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

WHEREAS, Gloria Langston of Rochester, New York, died on Friday, May 6, 2022, at the age of 97; and

WHEREAS, Born in Jamaica, she later moved to New York City to attend New York University, where she met her beloved husband, Andrew A. Langston; the two moved to Rochester together, where they established the first Black-owned radio station in the city; and

WHEREAS, Gloria Langston distinguished herself in her profession and by her sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of her community by establishing WDKX, the first Black-owned radio station in Rochester; and

WHEREAS, Rooted in an admirable persistence, Gloria Langston and her husband took hundreds of trips to Washington D.C. over six years, meeting with the Federal Communications Commission and participating in

numerous congressional hearings to secure the radio channel; and

WHEREAS, With no prior experience in radio before 1974, when her station was able to go on air, Gloria Langston cited her cultural upbringing of storytelling as a form of entertainment; she thought of storytelling as a part of her, and it proved true as she successfully navigated the industry of radio and held loyal listeners over many years; and

WHEREAS, The call letters which make up the stations name, WDKX, are references to multiple Black historical figures; the "D" stands for Frederick Douglass, the "K" for Martin Luther King, Jr., and the "X" for Malcolm X; and

WHEREAS, Throughout her illustrious career with WDKX, Gloria Langston had the opportunity to interview prominent Black leaders such as the Reverend Jesse Jackson and the first Black woman elected to the United States Congress, Shirley Chisholm; and

WHEREAS, Gloria Langston's commitment to excellence, and her 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, Gloria Langston leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all she served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Gloria Langston, pioneer of radio, admired storyteller, and devoted member of her community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Gloria Langston.