

## 2023-J2351

Senate Resolution No. 2351

BY: Senator CLEARE

COMMEMORATING the 30th Anniversary of Mad Wednesdays, and paying tribute to its founder, Maria Davis, for her ceaseless dedication to HIV/AIDS prevention and awareness

WHEREAS, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of Mad Wednesdays on March 20, 2024, and to pay tribute its founder, Maria Davis, for her ceaseless dedication to HIV/AIDS prevention and awareness; and

WHEREAS, Individuals and organizations devoted to improving the quality of life for others, enabling them to build lives of dignity and self-worth are deserving of the highest praise and recognition; and

WHEREAS, Maria Antonette Davis (MAD), a former hip-hop music promoter, began hosting a showcase called MAD Wednesdays, the first of which took place on March 20, 1994 at then hot spot, Sweetwaters on Amsterdam Avenue; and

WHEREAS, It was during this time that Maria Davis' new artist showcase and party became the backdrop and inspiration for Jay Z, Lil' Kim, and other renowned artists of the 90s; she was featured on Jay-Z's 22 Two's track from his debut album, "Reasonable Doubt"; and

WHEREAS, Since its inception, MAD Wednesdays has grown into a true movement with its permanent home at The Shrine in Central Harlem, and serving as a platform in preparing Maria to begin her role as an advocate for those living with HIV and AIDS; and

WHEREAS, Nearly three decades ago, Maria Davis was diagnosed with HIV and has since dedicated her life as a crusader, educator and activist for those living with HIV/AIDS; and

WHEREAS, This extraordinary woman has worked tirelessly in collaboration with the pharmaceutical company Merck and fashion designer Mondo Guerra on "I Design," a World AIDS Day national education campaign aimed at empowering the HIV community; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, to continue her fight against AIDS and HIV, Maria Davis promotes faith, positivity, and self-love to those living with this disease; and

WHEREAS, With a steadfast and unwavering commitment to remaining a voice for the voiceless, Maria Davis continues to educate her community on the importance of knowing your status; she also serves as a minister at the First Corinthian Baptist Church in Harlem; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the occurrence of such a compassionate blending of strength, leadership, intellect, and commitment as that demonstrated by Maria Davis over a lifetime of sacrifice and dedication to others; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals and 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 commemorate the 30th Anniversary of Mad Wednesdays, and to pay tribute to its founder, Maria Davis, for her ceaseless dedication to HIV/AIDS prevention and awareness; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Maria Davis.