

2009-J6359

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Stanfield Simmons Jr., distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize those individuals of preeminent character whose lives exemplified the highest ideals of humanity and whose lifework and civic endeavor served to enhance the quality of life in their communities and the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Stanfield Simmons Jr., owner, director and curator of the Simmons Collection African Arts Museum in Clinton Hill, Brooklyn, died Tuesday, June 15, 2010, at the age of 65; and

WHEREAS, A man of singular distinction, Stanfield Simmons Jr. distinguished himself in his profession and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community; and

WHEREAS, Stanfield Simmons Jr. was well known across the United States for organizing and leading group tours to countries in Africa, Asia, the South Pacific, Central and South America, and the Caribbean; he was widely appreciated and acknowledged for his contributions in the areas of global culture and art forms; and

WHEREAS, Throughout Stanfield Simmons Jr.'s lifetime, many schools, colleges, churches and private and public institutions gained a wealth of information from his vast knowledge of global culture which he imparted through his expansive collection of antiquities, artifacts and videos, slide shows and special exhibitions; he showcased the work of many artists, voluntarily mentored students, participated in career days, and was a guest speaker at graduation ceremonies; and

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

WHEREAS, Stanfield Simmons Jr., who worked as a paralegal with a Wall Street law firm before delving full-time into his passion for worldwide travel, impacted many lives; his philanthropic activities included donating funds, educational materials and supplies to schools in countries he visited; one expression of the esteem in which he was held was his designation as a Ghanaian chief; he also received many commendations and awards from various organizations; and

WHEREAS, When Stanfield Simmons Jr. was not leading groups on tours he enjoyed playing chess, the saxophone, creating sculptures from plumbing pipes, painting, and interior decorating; he also loved visiting museums and art exhibits; and

WHEREAS, Stanfield Simmons Jr. is survived by his wife, Barbara Wentt-Simmons; his father, Stanfield Simmons, Sr.; his son, Stanfield Simmons III; his sister, Barbara Jean Polynice; two granddaughters, Khalia and Kimora; his nephews, Lawrence Greer and Jean-Marc Polynice; as well as many other relatives and friends; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit, imbued with a sense of compassion, and comforted by a loving family, Stanfield Simmons Jr. 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 Stanfield Simmons Jr., 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 Stanfield Simmons Jr.