

2011-K507

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Southeast Queens, New York, Actor-Director Arthur French upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Coalition of Theatres of Color

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those individuals of outstanding character and achievement who have brought pride to this majestic Empire State; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Southeast Queens, New York, Actor-Director Arthur French upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Coalition of Theatres of Color on Thursday, May 19, 2011; and

WHEREAS, The Coalition of Theatres of Color (CTC) is a non-profit community of renowned multicultural theatre arts organizations in New York State; these institutions have joined forces to ensure sustainability and longevity of theatre of color in multicultural communities; and

WHEREAS, Arthur French, one of the original founding actors of the Negro Ensemble Company, earned an Obie Award for "Sustained Excellence of Performance," an Off-Broadway Lucille Lortel Award for August Wilson's "Two Trains Running" and several AUDELCO Awards for his direction of the Harlem revival of Ma Rainey's "Black Bottom"; and

WHEREAS, Arthur French is a veteran board member of Black Spectrum Theatre; his 50-year entertainment career spans key roles on Broadway, television and in film; his major New York stage work includes: Charles Fuller's Pulitzer Prize-winning "A Soldier's Play"; August Wilson's Pulitzer Prize-winning Ma Rainey's "Black Bottom"; Melvin Van Peebles's "Ain't Supposed to Die a Natural Death"; "You Can't Take It With You" with Jason Robards; Horton Foote's play "Dividing the Estate" with Elizabeth Ashley; "The Iceman Cometh" with James Earl Jones; and several productions with George C. Scott; and

WHEREAS, Arthur French has appeared in dozens of television shows, including "Law & Order"; "Law & Order: SVU"; and "Nurse Jackie"; and WHEREAS, A true asset to society, Arthur French's distinguished record merits the recognition and respectful tribute of this Legislative Body; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Southeast Queens, New York, Actor-Director Arthur French upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Coalition of Theatres of Color; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Arthur French.