

## 2013-J3615

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of business leader Lumon Ross, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his 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 the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body mourns the death of business leader Lumon Ross, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community; and

WHEREAS, Lumon Ross, of Buffalo, New York, died on January 7, 2014, at the age of 75; and

WHEREAS, A Buffalo native, Lumon Ross earned a bachelor's degree from Buffalo State College; he was a social worker and a New York State Division of Youth supervisor before opening the Kensington Experience restaurant on Kensington Avenue in the early 1990s; and

WHEREAS, Lumon Ross distinguished himself in his profession and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community; and

WHEREAS, He was a long-time champion of black-owned businesses; this community-minded leader understood the essential role of small businesses in rebuilding Buffalo's East Side community and creating job opportunities for the neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, Lumon Ross's commitment to excellence, and his spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, In the 1990s Lumon Ross co-founded the Black Chamber of Commerce and served as its only President, proudly representing the

organization at area business and job fairs; he made sure the Black Chamber of Commerce was accessible to all and was at the forefront of teaching the principles of business to members of the community; and WHEREAS, In addition, Lumon Ross was Chairman of the Millions More Movement's Ministry of Trade and Commerce, a board member of Citizens Alliance and Restoring Our Community Coalition, as well as a member of the Buffalo Local Action Committee and the Kwanzaa Committee; and WHEREAS, Lumon Ross lived his life with great dignity and genuine grace, always demonstrating a deep and continuing concern for human values and ideals, and inspiring others to do the same; and WHEREAS, He was devoted to his family and to his community, a polite and patient warrior whose passing leaves a void that can never be filled; and WHEREAS, Lumon Ross is survived by his wife, Nancy A. Ross; his children: Alexandra C. (Robert) Eaton, Lara M. Gray, Lumon J. (Rosalind) Ross, Kate I. Ross, Gabriele Olla, Sarah (Richard) Obot; his brother, Ralph Ross; eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, as well a host of nieces, nephews, and other family and friends; and WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Lumon Ross 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 business leader Lumon Ross, 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 Lumon Ross.