

## 2013-J3698

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating celebrated actor Louis Gossett Jr. upon the occasion of being the inaugural inductee of the Mark Twain Intermediate School for the Gifted and Talented Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame, on March 12, 2014

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to those individuals of historic and artistic significance whose creative talents have contributed to the cultural enrichment of our communities and our nation; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate celebrated actor Louis Gossett Jr. upon the occasion of being the inaugural inductee of the Mark Twain Intermediate School for the Gifted and Talented Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame; the Induction Ceremony will be held at the school's First Annual Gala on Wednesday, March 12, 2014, at Gargulio's Restaurant, in Coney Island, New York; and

WHEREAS, Louis Gossett Jr. will also speak to students at the Mark Twain Intermediate School for the Gifted and Talented; and

WHEREAS, Louis Gossett Jr. is an actor, educator, and activist; he was born and raised in the Sheepshead Bay section of Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, Louis Gossett Jr. is perhaps best-known for his unforgettable Academy Award-winning role as Gunnery Sergeant Emil Foley in the 1982 film, AN OFFICER AND A GENTLEMAN, and his Emmy Award-winning portrayal as Fiddler in the 1977 ABC television miniseries, ROOTS; and

WHEREAS, His nearly six-decade acting career began when he was a 17-year-old student at Abraham Lincoln High School in Brooklyn; a sports injury led him to take an acting class and he appeared in a school production of YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU, as well as a Broadway show; after graduation, he went to New York University on a basketball schol-

arship and was invited to try out for the New York Knicks but he declined, concentrating on theater instead; and

WHEREAS, Louis Gossett Jr. has appeared in 167 films and television shows, and has earned numerous accolades and awards, including the aforementioned Academy Award, two Emmy Awards, and three Golden Globe Awards; and

WHEREAS, In 2010, Louis Gossett Jr. published his autobiography, AN ACTOR AND A GENTLEMAN; although he continues to work in film, he has committed the last quadrant of his life to a conscious offensive against racism, violence, ignorance and social apathy through the work of his Eracism Foundation, which he founded in 2006; and

WHEREAS, Mark Twain Intermediate School for the Gifted and Talented is an institution of true purpose and high achievement, whose exemplary programs and accomplishments clearly demonstrate an enduring pursuit of excellence in the education of the youth of the Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Formerly known as I.S. 239, Mark Twain Intermediate School for the Gifted and Talented has a dual mission, immersing its students in an extremely supportive environment of academic rigor blended with a full visual art and performing arts experience; the school has been the recipient of wide recognition for the high achievements of its students, many of whom go on to attend New York City's top public and private high schools; and

WHEREAS, In light of the tremendous success and contributions of this accomplished thespian, it is small wonder that Mark Twain Intermediate School for the Gifted and Talented has selected Louis Gossett Jr. as the first inductee into its Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Louis Gossett Jr. has clearly distinguished himself in his career and community involvement, and New York State and the entire nation has benefited greatly from his acting gifts and humanistic enterprise; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to

congratulate Louis Gossett Jr. upon the occasion of being the inaugural inductee of the Mark Twain Intermediate School for the Gifted and Talented Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame; and be it further RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution be transmitted to Louis Gossett Jr., and Mark Twain Intermediate School for the Gifted and Talented.