

2013-J3896

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating Paul Williams upon the occasion of his induction into the United States Handball Association's Hall of Fame

WHEREAS, The quality and character of life in this Nation, and the great State of New York, is reflective of the purposeful lives and good works of those patriotic and civic-minded community members who dedicate their lives and careers to the service of others; and

WHEREAS, Athletic competition enhances the moral and physical development of the young people of this State, preparing them for the future by instilling in them the value of teamwork, encouraging a standard of healthy living, imparting a desire for success and developing a sense of fair play and competition; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Paul Williams upon the occasion of his induction into the United States Handball Association's Hall of Fame to be celebrated at a ceremony on Saturday, July 12, 2014; and

WHEREAS, Paul Williams is one of the greatest contributors to the sport of handball in its entire history; his achievements both on and off the court are an inspiration to all; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his long and illustrious athletic career, Paul Williams has been the winner of numerous awards in both national and international competition, including three National Doubles Titles and a World Masters Singles Title, among numerous other honors; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable man is the founder and president of the Inner City Handball Association (ICHA); for 17 years, this non-profit, volunteer youth organization has been dedicated to providing inexpensive handball related athletic activities and promoting academic excellence to teens throughout New York City; and

WHEREAS, Born in Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, Paul Williams knows

first-hand the difficulties youths face growing up in the inner-city; he is committed to the success of the young people under his care, promoting handball as a fun way to relieve stress as well as a deterrent to violence; and

WHEREAS, Paul Williams has been exemplary in his role as ambassador for the game of handball; he has traveled to such places as England, Ireland, Australia, and Nigeria, spreading his love for the sport to new places and forging new friendships wherever he goes; these cultural exchanges helped to build the foundation for the first One-Wall World Handball Championship held in Canada, in August of 1997; and

WHEREAS, A recipient of the Kendler Award for his outstanding, unselfish service to the game of handball, Paul Williams continues to impart his skills and experience to the next generation of players; his great deeds and work helping young people reach their potential are fully deserving of recognition by all citizens of the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals 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 congratulate Paul Williams upon the occasion of his induction into the United States Handball Association's Hall of Fame; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Paul Williams.