

2013-K929

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating Floyd Winston Coleman, Jr. upon the occasion of celebrating his 90th Birthday, and commending him for many years of loyal and dedicated service to his family, church and City of Elmira community

WHEREAS, From time to time we take note of certain individuals whom we feel bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the increasingly active roles they play in today's society; their past contributions and future participation are a vital part of, and a valuable asset to, the fabric of community life and activity; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to congratulate Floyd Winston Coleman, Jr. upon the occasion of celebrating his 90th Birthday, and to commend him for many years of loyal and dedicated service to his family, church and the City of Elmira community; and

WHEREAS, This exceptional nonagenarian, with his zest for life, has inspired and enhanced the lives of his family and friends; and

WHEREAS, In 1943, Floyd Winston Coleman, Jr. graduated from Elmira Free Academy in Elmira, New York; he then joined the United States Navy, serving his country from 1943 to 1946, earning the rank of Second Class Petty Officer; and

WHEREAS, Upon his return, Floyd Winston Coleman, Jr. was employed by Remington Rand in Elmira, New York, for 26 years, and then for 15 years by the Elmira Psychiatric Center; and

WHEREAS, In 1950, Floyd Winston Coleman, Jr. married the late Sarah (Rosie) Jackson-Coleman, and together they raised three children, Charles, Cathleen and Charlene; and

WHEREAS, This distinguished man has experienced the incredible joys and sorrows characteristic of and reserved for those with the stamina and courage to savor a full life; and

WHEREAS, Floyd Winston Coleman, Jr. was an active member of New York's Improved Benevolent and Pro-Justice Order of Elks, holding for many years the title of longest serving Grand District Deputy for Central New York; during this time, he earned numerous awards and accolades including the 1991 Leadership Award from the National District Deputies Council, the New York State Association's 1999 Elk of the Year Award, the 2004 Leadership Award from Past Exalted Rulers Council No. 125, and the Service Award for 62 years of Elkdom service by Central New York Council No. 125 as well as the Queen City Lodge No. 174 in 2011; in addition, he was the recipient of the New York State Association's inaugural Earl Chapman Award in 2012; and

WHEREAS, Floyd Winston Coleman, Jr. was, for over a quarter century, a member of the NAACP; he is also a lifetime member of the Frederick Douglas AME Zion Church in Elmira, New York, holding the title of President and member of Men of Zion for 12 years; formerly, he served on the Stewarts' Board, and was a member of the Young Persons Conference; and

WHEREAS, Floyd Winston Coleman, Jr. was featured in the documentary "300 Miles to Freedom," recording the life of John Jones, an escaped slave who settled in Elmira, New York, which included Elmira as yet another portion of the history of the famous Underground Railroad; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to publicly recognize those who have reached such a remarkable age and who have witnessed and celebrated the innovations, cultural developments and awesome achievements of this country during the last nine decades, while themselves contributing to the growth and excellence of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Floyd Winston Coleman, Jr. upon the occasion of celebrating

his 90th Birthday, and for being such an extraordinary individual who exemplifies strength, perseverance and wisdom and has impacted many lives; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Floyd Winston Coleman, Jr.