

## 2013-J3979

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Rhoda Ann Williams upon the occasion of celebrating her 107th Birthday

WHEREAS, Truly an extraordinary person who has led an exemplary life of humanitarian service, Rhoda Ann Williams is defined by simple modesty and a boundless energy that is amazing and inspiring; and

WHEREAS, Rhoda Ann Williams was born on February 15, 1907, to Robert and Jane Crann in the Parish of St. James, Jamaica, West Indies; and

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

WHEREAS, This distinguished woman, who has experienced the incredible joys and sorrows characteristic of and reserved for those with the stamina and courage to savor a full life, has inspired the lives of her many friends and family; and

WHEREAS, This beloved lady has enriched the lives of those around her through her joyous and sincere love for others and through the quiescent charm and wisdom which comes only from a fullness of years; and

WHEREAS, Rhoda Williams migrated to Montego Bay and was employed as a Nanny; also an entrepreneur, she ran a small business where she prepared food and confections for sale; and

WHEREAS, As a homemaker, Rhoda Williams gave birth to nine children, five whom survived to adulthood; she married Thomas Williams and they fought hard times raising five children who are all successful in their endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Baptized in the Glendevon Seventh Day Adventist Church in Jamaica, West Indies, Rhoda Williams became a member of the Hanson Place Church in Brooklyn; she later changed her membership to the Flatbush Seventh Day Adventist Church, where she has been a member for 37 years; and

WHEREAS, A vigilant missionary, Rhoda Williams never misses an opportunity to minister to young children, teenagers and adults; she points to her counseling wealth through the legacy of her children and grandchildren; vicariously, she has become the following: a vice president at IBM, a pilot, a nurse, a lawyer, an entrepreneur of several major businesses, an administrator of many large companies worldwide, a contractor, a physician's assistant, a chemist, a teacher, a soldier in the armed forces, a principal and chief radiographer to the island of Jamaica; and

WHEREAS, Throughout her 107 years on earth, Rhoda Williams has mentored her family and friends to the fullest; and

WHEREAS, Rhoda Williams' longevity is attributed to her positive philosophy and principles; she has been strongly committed to maintaining the highest level of spirituality and family life; and

WHEREAS, Rhoda Williams enjoys reading the Bible, sewing, cooking and baking, singing hymns and gardening; and

WHEREAS, With her throughout have been her five children, as well as her 32 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren and 10 great-great-grandchildren, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of her life and rejoice in her achievements; 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 century, 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 Rhoda Ann Williams upon the occasion of celebrating her 107th Birthday; and be it further

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