

2013-K1125

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating Dr. Una S.T. Clarke upon the occasion of receiving a Woman of Distinction Appreciation Award

WHEREAS, The Honorable Una S.T. Clarke, the first Caribbean-born woman elected to the New York City's legislature, is a proven and dedicated leader whose hard work and tireless advocacy have brought remarkable changes to her community; and

WHEREAS, Born in the parish of St. Elizabeth, Jamaica, West Indies, Dr. Clarke migrated to the United States as a foreign student in 1958; and

WHEREAS, She was elected in 1991 and during her 10 years tenure she sponsored more than 300 pieces of legislation on a wide range of issues including child welfare, education, health and mental health issues, economic development, public safety and transportation; and

WHEREAS, Her portfolio in the Council included committees on Aging, Youth Services, Economic Development, Health and Mental Health, and General Welfare; she also chaired the Council's committee on Mental Health, Mental Retardation, Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services; she was an active member of the Council's Black and Hispanic Caucus; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Clarke directed millions of dollars for education, health and mental health, economic development to her district, and pursued the implementation of critical projects and programs through her ability to win help and support from labor, government, community and business leaders; and

WHEREAS, An educator by profession, she has leveraged millions of dollars to upgrade schools in her district, and have made them technologically ready for the 21st Century with computer labs in every school and a model program for multi-media instruction; Dr. Clarke also fought to expand services for the elderly, rebuild parks and playgrounds and

increase quality childcare programs; and

WHEREAS, Sensitive to the needs of immigrants, Dr. Clarke has led campaigns for citizenship and voter registration to enable her constituents to receive greater rights and benefits; in response to flaws in the immigration law, she led delegations to Washington, D.C., to educate Congress for changes that would make the law more just for all immigrants; in addition, she is a tireless advocate and supporter of U.S.

foreign policy towards the Caribbean, especially on issues of trade; and
WHEREAS, In 1992, Dr. Clarke was appointed as a delegate to the Electoral College; and

WHEREAS, She received high accolades for her savvy and commitment to issues that are important to her Brooklyn constituents; Dr. Clarke was appointed in 2001 as Director of the Empire State Development Corporation for the borough of Brooklyn; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Clarke holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Long Island University and a Masters of Education degree from New York University, with additional post-graduate studies at Teachers College and the School of Business at Columbia University; and

WHEREAS, In 1984, she was the first foreign-born recipient of Columbia's prestigious Charles H. Revson Fellowship; she has been honored with numerous awards from both community and professional organizations; in 1999, she received the second highest honor that a civilian can receive from the Government of Jamaica; and

WHEREAS, She was also awarded the Commander of the Order of Distinction (C.D.), for distinguished service for Jamaicans and Caribbean nationals in North America; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Clarke is the first Caribbean-born woman to receive the prestigious 2001 Ellis Island Medal of Honor; in November 2005, she

received the honorary Doctor of Letters from the University of Technology in Jamaica (DLtt); and

WHEREAS, With her throughout have been her husband, and their two

children, Leslie Clarke Sr., the Honorable Yvette D. Clarke and television producer Leslie Clarke Jr., as well as three grandsons, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of her life and rejoice in her achievements; 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 Dr. Una S.T. Clarke upon the occasion of receiving a Woman of Distinction Appreciation Award; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dr. Una S.T. Clarke.