

## 2013-J5226

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring the life and achievements of Thomas Jennings, the first African-American to be granted a patent

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

WHEREAS, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor the life and achievements of Thomas Jennings, the first African-American to be granted a patent; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Jennings was born in New York City in 1791; at 30 years of age, he was the first African-American to receive a patent by the United States Patent and Trademark Office; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Jennings, a well-known custom-tailor, was a small business owner in New York City; during the course of his business practice, he invented a cleaning process called "dry scouring," which was the precursor to dry cleaning; he applied for and was granted a patent for dry scouring on March 3, 1821; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Jennings, a native New Yorker, was an entrepreneurial trailblazer who was ahead of his time; as the first African-American to be granted a patent, his success is an important part of the journey we have traveled as a society in America; and

WHEREAS, The Thomas Jennings story will hopefully inspire the next generation of engineers, scientists and mathematicians to contribute to our innovation and tech economy; 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 honor the life and achievements of Thomas Jennings, the first African-American to be granted a patent; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Thomas Jennings.