

2013-J5197

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 89th Birthday of Malcolm X, a singular human rights activist, and one of the most influential African-American leaders in history

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend individuals and events which celebrate our nation's great struggle to fulfill the promise of equality and opportunity for all; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 89th Birthday of Malcolm X, a singular human rights activist, and one of the most influential African-American leaders in history; and

WHEREAS, Malcolm X was born Malcolm Little in Omaha, Nebraska, on May 19, 1925; and

WHEREAS, On January 14, 1958, Malcolm X married Betty Sanders; they had six children, Attallah, Qubilah, Iiyasah, Gamilah, Malaak, and Malikah; and

WHEREAS, Once a member of the Nation of Islam, Malcolm X was a Muslim minister, public speaker, and human rights activist; to his admirers, he was a courageous advocate for the rights of African-Americans in the face of institutionalized racism; and

WHEREAS, After his departure from the Nation of Islam, Malcolm X founded Muslim Mosque Inc., and the Organization of Afro American Unity; he then became a Sunni Muslim and after his holy pilgrimage to Mecca he became El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz; and

WHEREAS, Malcolm X's pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia proved life altering and for the first time, he shared his thoughts and beliefs with different cultures, and found the response to be overwhelmingly positive; and

WHEREAS, When he returned to the United States, Malcolm X mentioned

that while he was abroad he had met men of all races that he could call his brothers; he also returned to the United States with a new outlook on the African-American struggle for equality, a new message for all mankind, and a new hope for the future; and

WHEREAS, On February 21, 1965, Malcolm X was assassinated while giving a lecture in the Audubon Ballroom, in New York City, which was subsequently designated as a landmark and currently houses the Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center; and

WHEREAS, In 1987, in honor of the slain civil rights leader, Lenox Avenue in Harlem, New York City was named after Malcolm X; and

WHEREAS, In January 1999, family and friends of Malcolm X gathered at the Apollo Theatre in Harlem, New York, to witness the U.S. Postal Service announce the debut of the new Malcolm X postage stamp; the 33-cent commemorative stamp is the 22nd stamp in the Postal Service's Black Heritage series; the U.S. Postal Service declared that Malcolm X was one of the most influential Black leaders of the 1960s, and that he shaped the debate about race relations and strategies for social change; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 89th Birthday of Malcolm X, a singular human rights activist, and one of the most influential African-American leaders in history.