

2013-J5850

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Dr. Felix Armfield, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to citizens of the State of New York whose lifework and civic endeavor served to enhance the quality of life in their communities and the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Felix Armfield of Buffalo, New York, died on April 30, 2014, at the age of 51; and

WHEREAS, This exemplary man distinguished himself in his profession and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community; and

WHEREAS, A Professor of History and Social Education at SUNY Buffalo State since 2000, Dr. Felix Armfield was best known for both his devotion to his students and his advocacy for Buffalo's African-American community; and

WHEREAS, Prior to becoming an empowering asset to the SUNY Buffalo State community, Dr. Felix Armfield was an Assistant Professor at Western Illinois University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Felix Armfield attended North Carolina Central University where he received both his Bachelor's and Master's degree in History; he continued his education at Michigan State University, earning his doctorate degree; and

WHEREAS, His commitment to excellence in education and service to the community is well documented with his many prestigious awards, such as the Hero Award from the Disability Services Office, the Students' Award for the Promotion of Respect for Diversity and Individual Differences, and the William Wells Brown Award from the Afro-American Historical Association of the Niagara Frontier; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Dr. Felix Armfield was the Associate Director of the Monroe Fordham Regional History Center, a Representative of the African and American-American Interdisciplinary Studies Unit, and a member of the Graduate Faculty; and

WHEREAS, With a passion for history burning bright in all of his endeavors, Dr. Felix Armfield was a trailblazer and outstanding advocate for the African-American community and its storied history in the City of Buffalo; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Felix Armfield was the author of BLACK LIFE IN WEST CENTRAL ILLINOIS and EUGENE KINCKLE JONES: THE NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE AND BLACK SOCIAL WORK, 1910-1940; his outstanding research in history was both well-known and instrumental in the publication of "Fire on the Prairies: The 1895 Spring Valley Race Riot" in the JOURNAL OF ILLINOIS HISTORY; and

WHEREAS, A devoted community member, Dr. Felix Armfield was extremely proud of his work as an organizer of the African-American Ancestral Heritage Tours at Forest Lawn in Buffalo, New York; he is survived by his sister, Kimberly; and

WHEREAS, It is rare to find an individual brimming with such passion while possessing the grit and determination to truly impact the community in a positive way; Dr. Felix Armfield's spirit of excellence is fondly remembered by his students, colleagues and administrators; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Felix Armfield's commitment to excellence, and his spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit, imbued with a sense of compassion, and comforted by a loving family, Dr. Felix Armfield leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will

remain as a comforting memory to all he served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to

mourn the death of Dr. Felix Armfield, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community; and be it further
RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Dr. Felix Armfield.