

2013-J5981

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring the life of the Reverend Charles Jackson, distinguished citizen of the Village of Clyde, devoted civil rights advocate and man of supreme faith

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

WHEREAS, The Reverend Charles Jackson was born on October 21, 1936, in Quincy, Florida; he was raised by his mother and grandparents on a tobacco farm where he started working when he was five years old for \$1 a day; he left school after seventh grade to help support his family; and

WHEREAS, Growing up in the South, he lived with the sting of segregation and the onerous oppression of Jim Crow laws; hoping to improve his life, the Reverend Charles Jackson traveled several times as a young teenager from Florida to Savannah, to Wayne County, New York, to load onions and potatoes for Gus Dhondt's farming enterprise; and

WHEREAS, On June 25, 1955, the Reverend Charles Jackson married Dorine Lockwood in Bambridge, Georgia, when he was 18 and she was 17; he first brought Dorine to Savannah in 1957; in 1959, the Jacksons stopped their cycle of migration, living that winter with their two young children in a Savannah labor camp they insulated with cardboard; and

WHEREAS, The Reverend Charles Jackson worked for several agricultural employers before attending basic education classes in Savannah; he got a part-time job with the Wayne Community Action Program (CAP), where he visited underprivileged people and helped them improve their lives; he graduated with honors from a cooking course and eventually went to work at the Newark Developmental Center in direct care; and

WHEREAS, In the 1960s, the Reverend Charles Jackson became acquainted with the Reverend Ivory Simmons and Travis Spencer, both active in the civil rights movement in Wayne County and the local chapter of the NAACP; Deacon Nathan McCray and his wife, Mary, also became close friends of the Jackson family, with the Reverend Charles Jackson crediting the Deacon for helping him become a man of strong faith; and

WHEREAS, The Reverend Charles Jackson became an ordained minister in 1981 through the Wayne County American Baptist Association, serving as an Associate Pastor in Red Creek, New York and at the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Lyons, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Jackson family purchased a home on Genesee Street in Clyde in 1968, becoming one of the first black families to own property in the Village; they raised a family that would eventually number six children, 21 grandchildren and 28 great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, In later years, the Reverend Charles Jackson, while continuing his work in the community and his church, cared for his wife, Dorine, who suffered a stroke and eventually passed away in 2002, after being ill for 13 years; that same year, the Reverend Charles Jackson suffered a stroke himself; he credited his tireless faith and trust in God for making a nearly complete recovery; and

WHEREAS, In 1979, the Reverend Charles Jackson began writing his autobiography, finishing and publishing MORE THAN ONE JOURNEY in 2002; he reprinted it in 2010 with an addendum, SECOND CHANCE; the book leaves a lasting legacy for his family and all who seek to understand this extraordinary man and the life he lived; and

WHEREAS, The Reverend Charles Jackson distinguished himself in Wayne County and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the fight against injustice; and

WHEREAS, The Reverend Charles Jackson died on May 2, 2014, at the age of 77; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to

honor the life of the Reverend Charles Jackson, distinguished citizen,
devoted clergyman and dedicated civil rights advocate; and be it further
RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be tran-
smitted to the family of the Reverend Charles Jackson.