

2015-J613

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring retired Major General Joseph A. McNeil upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the Franklin Square Historical Society on February 25, 2015

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge the significant accomplishments in the distinguished careers of esteemed residents of this noble Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Individuals who dedicate their lives to military service merit the commendation and applause of all citizens for their commitment to the preservation of American freedom; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor retired Major General Joseph A. McNeil upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the Franklin Square Historical Society on Wednesday, February 25, 2015, at the Franklin Square Public Library; and

WHEREAS, Joseph A. McNeil is best known as one of the Greensboro Four, a group of African-American college students who sat down at the segregated lunch counter at Woolworth's in Greensboro, North Carolina; his courageous action was one of the defining moments of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States; and

WHEREAS, In 2002, North Carolina A&T commissioned a statue of the Greensboro Four which is currently displayed on its campus, honoring Joseph A. McNeil along with the other three members of the Greensboro Four; and

WHEREAS, Born on March 25, 1942, in Wilmington, North Carolina, Joseph A. McNeil received his early education from Williston Senior High School; upon graduation, his parents moved the family to New York; and

WHEREAS, Joseph A. McNeil entered North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University; in 1963, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering Physics from North Carolina A&T, and was commis-

sioned as a Second Lieutenant through the university's ROTC program; and WHEREAS, In addition, Joseph A. McNeil holds three honorary doctorates including a Doctor of Philosophy degree from North Carolina A&T State University, 1991; Doctor of Laws degree from St. John's University, 1998; and Doctor of Humanities degree from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, 2010; and

WHEREAS, In July of 1963, Joseph A. McNeil began serving his country proudly as a member of the United States Air Force assigned to James Connally Air Force Base near Waco, Texas; from 1964 to 1969, he was assigned to Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota, where he served as a KC-135 Navigator; and

WHEREAS, During this period, Joseph A. McNeil rose through the ranks of First Lieutenant and Captain; in 1972, he served as a Navigator Instructor, Flight Commander, Executive Officer, and Commander of the 702nd Military Airlift Squadron at McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Joseph A. McNeil served as a Liaison Officer in the United States Air Force Academy; in 1989, he served as Special Assistant to the Vice Commander and Commander of the 514th Airlift Wing at McGuire Air Force Base; during this time, he was promoted to the esteemed ranks of Major, Lieutenant Colonel, and Colonel; and

WHEREAS, After leaving active duty in 1969 with the esteemed rank of Captain, Joseph A. McNeil continued to serve in the Air Force Reserves; from 1992 to 1995, he served as Vice Commander, and later, Commander of the 22nd Air Force stationed at Dobbins Air Force Reserve Base, Georgia; he would also be promoted to the rank of Brigadier General in 1994; and

WHEREAS, In August of 1995, Joseph A. McNeil served as Mobilization Assistant to the Vice Commander, and later, Commander at the Air Force Reserve Command Headquarters; and

WHEREAS, In 2000, Joseph A. McNeil retired from the Air Force Reserves with the esteemed rank of Major General, having being promoted to this

position in 1996; and

WHEREAS, After his illustrious military career spanning more than 30 years, and over 6,600 flight hours, upon his retirement, Joseph A.

McNeil received the Air Force Distinguished Service Medal; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his military career, Joseph A. McNeil established himself in the private and public sectors with time spent in corporate finance, investment banking, and public services; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable man joined the Federal Aviation Administration where he served as Assistant Division Manager of the administration's Eastern Region Flight Standards Division, and Manager of the New York Flight Standards District Office; and

WHEREAS, In 2002, Joseph A. McNeil retired from the Federal Aviation Administration after more than 15 years of dedicated service; and

WHEREAS, A man of many accomplishments, Joseph A. McNeil was the recipient of the James Smithson Bicentennial Medal from the Smithsonian Institution in 2010; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Ina, and their five children, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Joseph A. McNeil has displayed throughout his life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor retired Major General Joseph A. McNeil upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the Franklin Square Historical Society on February 25, 2015; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to retired Major General Joseph A. McNeil.