

2015-J976

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the untimely death of Anthony Mason, outstanding athlete, New York City sports icon, and devoted member of his community

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge and pay tribute to those esteemed individuals within the State of New York who distinguished themselves through outstanding achievements in national athletic competition; and

WHEREAS, Anthony Mason, a longtime NBA player who helped the New York Knicks reach the 1994 NBA Finals, died on February 28, 2015, at the age of 48; and

WHEREAS, Born in Miami, Florida, on December 14, 1966, Anthony Mason grew up in Queens, New York, and played basketball at Springfield Gardens High School; and

WHEREAS, After graduation, Anthony Mason attended Tennessee State University where he was a dominant basketball player, becoming the school's first All-Ohio Valley Conference selection; in addition, he set a new school-record of 247 free throws during the 1987-1988 season; and

WHEREAS, Anthony Mason was selected in the third round of the 1988 NBA draft by the Portland Trail Blazers, but was placed on waivers; displaying the toughness and determination for which he would become known, Anthony steadfastly competed in Turkey and Venezuela, and other basketball minor leagues before returning to the NBA; and

WHEREAS, In 1991, Anthony Mason earned a spot on the New York Knicks roster, where he quickly became a fan favorite for his outstanding efforts and physical play, as well as the creative artwork and messages he had carved in his haircuts; and

WHEREAS, Known for his tenacity on defense and offensive playmaking abilities, Anthony Mason was an integral part of one of the great teams

in New York Knicks history; he helped his teammates in memorable battles against the Chicago Bulls in the playoffs and was a member of the squad which won the Eastern Conference and reached the 1994 NBA Finals; and WHEREAS, During the prime of his career, Anthony Mason earned the 1995 NBA Sixth Man of the Year Award and then led the league in minutes played in the subsequent two seasons; furthermore, he was selected to the 1997 All-NBA (3rd team) and NBA All-Defensive Team (2nd team); and WHEREAS, Anthony Mason played for six teams during his NBA career but was best remembered for his tenure with the New York Knicks, where he played with many exceptional players under Coach Pat Riley from 1991 until 1996; and

WHEREAS, A member of the Charlotte Hornets until 2000, Anthony Mason reunited with Coach Riley and joined the Miami Heat, where he was selected to the NBA All-Star Team in 2001; and

WHEREAS, Anthony Mason is survived by his beloved mother, Mary, and his two sons Anthony Mason, Jr. and Antoine; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Anthony Mason 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; he will be deeply missed; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the untimely death of Anthony Mason, outstanding athlete, New York City sports icon, and devoted member of his community, and to offer its sincerest condolences to his family; and be it further

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