

2015-J1174

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 188th Anniversary of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of Newburgh on April 11, 2015

WHEREAS, Religious institutions, and the many spiritual, social and educational benefits they confer, play a vital role in the development of the moral fabric of a responsible citizenry; and

WHEREAS, It is the tradition of this State and this Nation to pay tribute to those institutions and individuals who have contributed to the ethical and spiritual values of their communities; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body takes pleasure in commemorating the 188th Anniversary of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of Newburgh to be celebrated at a banquet on Saturday, April 11, 2015; in addition, a revival will be held April 8th-10th, led by Bishop Henry Smalls, and a service with guest preacher, Reverend Dr. George D. Crenshaw, will be held on Sunday, April 12, 2015; and

WHEREAS, The African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Zion Church of Newburgh was founded in 1827, under the guidance of The Reverend John Matthews; it has continued to grow under the able leadership of its pastors as well as the support of a dedicated congregation, and the Newburgh community; and

WHEREAS, After holding services at various temporary locations, the AME Zion Church of Newburgh moved to its own facilities on Washington St., following the appointment of The Reverend William Bishop as Pastor in 1832; and

WHEREAS, The AME Zion Church of Newburgh was incorporated in 1848, and rebuilt under the Pastorate of The Reverend Peter Ross in 1851; and

WHEREAS, Throughout its history, the AME Zion Church of Newburgh has been blessed with outstanding church leadership which has provided guid-

ance and spiritual outreach during difficult times; and

WHEREAS, During the tenure of its longest serving Pastor, The Reverend Frank E. Jones, the AME Zion Church of Newburgh sponsored and completed the construction of Varick Homes, a multi-family housing complex; in addition, the Church completed major repairs to its facilities and instituted numerous programs for the benefit of the local community; and

WHEREAS, In 2002, The Reverend Twila Rucker Caines became the first woman to be appointed pastor in the history of the AME Zion Church of Newburgh; her leadership was vital in making major improvements, as well as in recovering from two fires which caused considerable damage; and

WHEREAS, Under the illustrious guidance of its current Pastor, Reverend Milton Stubbs, the AME Zion Church of Newburgh now stands on the threshold of tomorrow, prepared to meet the challenges of the coming decades while retaining that spiritual resolve which characterizes its past; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to take note of enduring religious institutions and to bring such institutions to the attention of the people of this Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 188th Anniversary of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of Newburgh, fully confident that this commemoration reflects the belief in those values which enhance the dignity and purpose of life; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Reverend Milton Stubbs, AME Zion Church of Newburgh, Newburgh, New York.