

2015-J1550

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Reverend Victor T. Hall, Sr. upon the occasion of his 24th Anniversary as Pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church

WHEREAS, The character and richness of religious and community life in this noble Empire State is nourished and fulfilled through the faithful concern and selfless devotion of those who would commit their energies and purpose to the ministry of others; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Reverend Victor T. Hall, Sr. upon the occasion of his 24th Anniversary as Pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church, in Jamaica, Queens, to be celebrated on Sunday, May 17, 2015; and

WHEREAS, In 1982, Salutatorian Victor T. Hall, Sr. graduated with both Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Tau Delta honors from Morehouse College, Atlanta, Georgia; he then went on to graduate from the Union Theological Seminary, New York City; and

WHEREAS, Upon graduating from seminary school, Victor T. Hall, Sr. furthered his education by attending the University of Chicago Divinity School, as well as both the University of London, and the University of Nanjing, China; and

WHEREAS, Victor T. Hall, Sr. has been the recipient of numerous religious studies awards and accolades, including the William & Gertrude Jackson Award, the E.K. Bailey Theological Award, the coveted Benjamin E. Mays Fellowship, and the CIC Minority Fellowship; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Victor T. Hall, Sr. earned his license to preach; he was then ordained into the priesthood; and

WHEREAS, Prior to leading the Calvary Baptist Church, Reverend Victor T. Hall, Sr. was the Pastor of the New Hope Baptist Church, the oldest African-American Christian Witness in Dallas; in addition, he served as Associate Minister at the Union Baptist Church in Atlanta, and held the

position of Staff Assistant on the Black Theology Project in New York;

and

WHEREAS, In 1990, Reverend Victor T. Hall, Sr. became the Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Jamaica, Queens; as its 10th Pastor, he focuses on impacting the Jamaica community with programs which benefit children, youth, parents, seniors, and the incarcerated; and

WHEREAS, Under his capable leadership, the Calvary Baptist Church has grown tremendously in membership, finances, and ministries; and

WHEREAS, The Calvary Baptist Church expanded its ministries by erecting a 101-unit Senior Citizen Housing Complex; today, the Calvary Baptist Church has embarked upon a large renovation and extension project known as Project Beautiful, and is building a grandparent's housing complex which will become the home to seniors and low-income grandparents who have legal custody of their grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, In 1993, Pastor Victor T. Hall, Sr. helped to bring a full-time youth ministry to fruition; the Imani Youth Ministry has worked to encourage and promote outreach programs to thousands of children and youth throughout both New York City and Long Island; and

WHEREAS, This vital organization encourages urban youth to leave the streets and better themselves by attending colleges across the nation; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Victor T. Hall, Sr. also aided in the establishment of a food pantry, which feeds hundreds of people each week; and

WHEREAS, Through Pastor Victor T. Hall, Sr.'s vision, Calvary Baptist Church is home to a plethora of community and outreach ministries, including a Prison Ministry, which has supported hundreds of inmates at Riker's Island, and its Angle Tree Program which has strengthened children and families of the incarcerated; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Calvary Baptist Church has continued its work with patients at Creedmor Psychiatric Center, and through the American Heart Association, it sponsors an Annual Walk Against Cancer; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Calvary Baptist Church annually supports Christian mission trips to India, Africa, the Caribbean, and China; in 2008, Pastor Hall led 40 members of his congregation on a tour of Israel, where he gave a speech on race relations in the Israeli Knesset; and WHEREAS, Pastor Hall is also a life-time member of the NAACP, and for over 15 years, he has served as a Lieutenant Captain for the Metropolitan Transit Authority Police, ministering to police officers and their families; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, Pastor Hall is a member of numerous organizations, including Clergy United for Community Empowerment, the Baptist Minister's Conference of New York and Vicinity, the Eastern Baptist Association, The Empire State Baptist Convention of New York, the American Baptist Churches USA, The National Baptist Convention USA, and the Progressive National Baptist Convention; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout has been his wife, Marvlieu Jolla Hall, and his children, Victor II, Nia, and Ayanna, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, This distinguished man of God has always given enlightenment, guidance and wisdom to the many entrusted to his care and has administered abundantly and unstintingly to the spiritual and corporal needs of all; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Reverend Victor T. Hall, Sr., noting his unremitting and compassionate faith and his exemplary service to God, man, and his community, and extending to him the heartfelt best wishes of this Legislative Body for a future of purposeful success and well-being; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Reverend Victor T. Hall, Sr.