

2015-J2828

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the December 12th Movement's annual march on 125th Street, and paying tribute to the memory of singular human and civil rights hero Malcolm X

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and celebrate individuals and events which commemorate our nation's great struggle to fulfill the promise of equality and opportunity for all; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the December 12th Movement's annual march on 125th Street, and to pay tribute to the memory of singular human and civil rights hero Malcolm X; and

WHEREAS, Founded in 1987, the December 12th Movement carries forth the spirit of Malcolm X's universal notion that the conditions which African-Americans suffer in the United States are inextricably linked to the conditions of Africans worldwide; and

WHEREAS, For the past 25 years, the December 12th Movement has led the Black Power March and Rally to shut down all businesses along the 125th Street corridor in Harlem to commemorate the birthday and Legacy of Malcolm X, also known as El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz; and

WHEREAS, Malcolm X was born Malcolm Little in Omaha, Nebraska, on May 19, 1925; and

WHEREAS, On January 14, 1958, Malcolm X married Betty Sanders, and together they raised six children, Attallah, Qubilah, Iiyasah, Gamilah, Malaak, and Malukah; and

WHEREAS, Once a member of the Nation of Islam, Malcolm X was a Muslim minister, public speaker, and human rights activist; to his admirers, he was a courageous advocate for the rights of African-Americans in the face of institutionalized racism; and

WHEREAS, After his departure from the Nation of Islam, Malcolm X founded Muslim Mosque Inc., and the Organization of Afro American Unity; he then became a Sunni Muslim and after his holy pilgrimage to Mecca, he became El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz; and

WHEREAS, Malcolm X's pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia, proved life altering and for the first time, he shared his thoughts and beliefs with different cultures, and found the response to be overwhelmingly positive; and

WHEREAS, When he returned to the United States, Malcolm X mentioned that while he was abroad he had met men of all races that he could call his brothers; he also returned to the United States with a new outlook on the African-American struggle for equality, a new message for all mankind, and a new hope for the future; and

WHEREAS, On February 21, 1965, Malcolm X was assassinated while giving a lecture in the Audubon Ballroom, in New York City, which was subsequently designated as a landmark and currently houses the Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center; and

WHEREAS, In 1987, in honor of the slain civil rights leader, Lenox Avenue in Harlem, New York City was named after Malcolm X; and

WHEREAS, Our society is greatly benefited by the purposeful efforts of individuals who unite for the cause of improving the quality of life for others, and who proactively work toward the goal of dignity for all; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and applaud those cultural events within the State of New York which serve to celebrate diversity, and in doing so, help to enfranchise minority populations within the larger community of humanity; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the December 12th Movement's annual march on 125th Street, and to pay tribute to the memory of singular human and civil rights hero Malcolm X, one of the most influential Afri-

can-American leaders in history; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the December 12th Movement.