

## 2015-J3283

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Dr. Willie Bryant, distinguished citizen, devoted community and national civil and human rights leader

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to citizens of the State of New York whose lifework and civic endeavors served to enhance the quality of life in their communities and the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Willie Bryant, of Wesley Hills, New York, died on Monday, December 28, 2015, at the age of 77; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Willie Bryant distinguished himself in his profession as a caring dentist for 35 years and was respected by all who knew him; and

WHEREAS, Known for his community organization and human touch which brought people together, Dr. Willie Bryant was a human rights advocate who vigorously fought for civil rights for 45 years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Willie Bryant was recognized for his work in erecting the Thurgood Marshall Monument in 2002, to honor the United States Supreme Court decision on desegregating the Hillburn school system in 1943; and

WHEREAS, In 2008, this incredibly prominent community organizer was inducted into the Rockland County Human and Civil Rights Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Dr. Willie Bryant is acknowledged as a founding sponsor of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, As a proud, lifelong member of the NAACP, Dr. Willie Bryant served as the Florida A&M Chapter President; and

WHEREAS, Due to his leadership skills, Dr. Willie Bryant was instrumental in organizing a massive sickle-cell anemia screening project which helped more than 1,200 residents in Ossining, New York; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Willie Bryant was credited with building the Rockland

Employees Federal Credit Union, which now has 7,000 members; he served as the credit union's President and Treasurer until his passing; and WHEREAS, Proudly serving his country as a former Army Officer, Dr. Willie Bryant was also an Eagle Scout and Scout Master as well as a former Chapter President of the Rockland County Alpha Phi Fraternity; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed man was a pioneer in the civil rights movement whose sincere dedication and accomplishments to Rockland County are greatly valued; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Willie Bryant's commitment to excellence, and his spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, A tireless advocate for civil and human rights, this remarkable man's life continues to serve as an inspiration to others; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Willie Bryant is survived by his wife, Goldie L. Battle, his son, Wendell, and his daughter, Amy Diane Bryant; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of justice, Dr. Willie Bryant leaves behind a legacy of fighting for freedom which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all he served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Dr. Willie Bryant, distinguished citizen, devoted community and national civil and human rights leader; and be it further RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Dr. Willie Bryant.