

2015-J3559

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Shirley Ann Jackson, Ph.D. upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the National Medal of Science by Albany Medical Center on February 2, 2016

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Shirley Ann Jackson, Ph.D. upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the National Medal of Science by Albany Medical Center to be celebrated on Tuesday, February 2, 2016, at the Fort Orange Club, Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, Born on August 5, 1946, in Washington, DC to Beatrice and George Jackson, Shirley Ann Jackson graduated from Roosevelt High School as valedictorian in 1964; she began classes at MIT that same year, during which time she did volunteer work at Boston City Hospital and tutored students at the Roxbury YMCA; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Ann Jackson earned her bachelor's degree in 1968, writing her thesis on solid-state physics, a subject then in the forefront of theoretical physics; she continued her education at MIT, studying elementary particle theory for her Ph.D., which she completed in 1973; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, her thesis, "The Study of a Multiperipheral Model with Continued Cross-Channel Unitarity," was subsequently published in the Annals of Physics in 1975; and

WHEREAS, As a postdoctoral student of subatomic particles during the 1970s, Shirley Ann Jackson studied and conducted research at a number of prestigious physics laboratories in both the United States and Europe; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Ann Jackson began her illustrious career as a research associate at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory in Batavia, Illinois, and in 1974, she became visiting scientist at the accelerator lab at the European Center for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Switzerland; and

WHEREAS, In 1976 and 1977, Shirley Ann Jackson both lectured in physics at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center and became a visiting scientist at the Aspen Center for Physics; she also joined the Theoretical Physics Research Department at AT&T Bell Laboratories in 1976; and

WHEREAS, Two years later, Shirley Ann Jackson became part of the Scattering and Low Energy Physics Research Department, then in 1988, she moved to the Solid State and Quantum Physics Research Department; and

WHEREAS, In her extensive research, Shirley Ann Jackson has made contributions to the knowledge of such areas as charged density waves in layered compounds, polaronic aspects of electrons in the surface of liquid helium films, and optical and electronic properties of semiconductor strained-layer superlattices; on these topics and others she has prepared or collaborated on more than 100 scientific articles; and

WHEREAS, From 1980 to 1982, Shirley Ann Jackson served as NSBP President; she was elected to the American Physical Society and selected a CIBA-GEIGY Exceptional Black Scientist; in 1985, Governor Thomas Kean appointed her to the New Jersey Commission on Science and Technology; and

WHEREAS, Widely respected within the science community, Shirley Ann Jackson was awarded the Thomas Alva Edison Science Award for her contributions to physics and for the promotion of science in the early 1990s by Governor James Florio; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Ann Jackson is an active voice in numerous committees of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the National Science Foundation, where her aim has been to actively promote women in science; and

WHEREAS, Professor of Physics at Rutgers University from 1976 to 1991, Shirley Ann Jackson was also appointed head of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission by President Bill Clinton in 1995; four years later she became the first female and the first African-American President of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, the esteemed position she continues to hold today; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Ann Jackson was elected as a member of the National Academy of Engineers (NAE) in 2001, and in December of 2002, she was elected president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the world's largest general scientific society and publisher of the journal; in addition, SCIENCE SPECTRUM MAGAZINE and Career Communications Group, Inc. selected her as one of the "50 Most Important Blacks in Research Science"; and

WHEREAS, With her throughout have been her husband and her son, both of whom feel privileged to be a part of her life and rejoice in her achievements; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the quality of life in their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to the maintenance of high standards in their profession, certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Shirley Ann Jackson, Ph.D. upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the National Medal of Science by Albany Medical Center on February 2, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Shirley Ann Jackson, Ph.D.