

## 2015-J3988

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring John M. Flowers posthumously upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate

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, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor John M. Flowers posthumously upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Senate Liberty Medal was established by resolution and is awarded to individuals who have merited special commendation for exceptional, heroic, or humanitarian acts on behalf of their fellow New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, John M. Flowers was born in Brundidge, Alabama, on October 28, 1943, to the late J. D. Flowers and Tommie Mae Lane; at the young age of 10, he and his family moved to Poughkeepsie, New York; and

WHEREAS, A graduate of Poughkeepsie High School, John M. Flowers was an adept basketball player whose quick hands and on-point jump-shots made him an all-county basketball star; and

WHEREAS, After graduation from high school, John M. Flowers proudly served his country as a member of the United States Army's 82nd Airborne Division during the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, John M. Flowers distinguished himself in his profession and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community; and

WHEREAS, After his discharge, John M. Flowers returned to Poughkeepsie and served as a self-employed general contractor for over 30 years; and

WHEREAS, John M. Flowers' commitment to excellence, and his spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; he always strived to share hope, happiness and humanity with people not only in the Hudson Valley, but throughout the World; and

WHEREAS, Since 1992, John M. Flowers has enthusiastically served as a community organizer; after visiting his sister in a hospital in Boston, Massachusetts, he began collecting Christmas Gifts to bring joy to patients at local Nursing Homes and Hospitals; and

WHEREAS, Through the years, John M. Flowers has organized many other events which have greatly benefitted the Poughkeepsie area including a Christmas in February celebration at the VA Hospital to recognize the veterans, Church picnics, and Old Fashioned Easter Egg Hunts and Halloween Parties/Haunted Houses for the kids; and

WHEREAS, A true philanthropist, John M. Flowers enjoyed bringing roses to mothers at Nursing Homes and Hospitals to recognize them on Mother's Day, started the first Father's Day Parade in the county to remember the wonderful fathers in the Hudson Valley, and helped organize volunteers for the Eileen Hickey Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinners at the Lunch Box; and

WHEREAS, For his steadfast commitment to his beloved hometown, John M. Flowers has been the recipient of numerous awards and accolades including the Martin Luther King, Jr. Award, NewsChannel 6 Good Neighbor

Award, the Dutchess County Sheriff Community Award, the Black Achievement Award, United Way Golden Rule Award, the Poughkeepsie South Rotary's Jules Schwartz Community Service Award, the Neighborhood Community

Award, the Prestige Award, The Salvation Army Award, Spirit To Community Award by Families First, Psychologically Healthy Community Award, and the Eleanor Roosevelt Candlelight Award, as well as the Kappa Alpha Psi Civic Spirit Award; and

WHEREAS, In addition, he received the Ambassador For Peace Award for New York State, which was presented in Washington, D. C. by a member of Congress; the James Brown Award, which was presented by James Brown's daughter at the New York State Sugar Bar; and The Salvation Army "Others Award," the highest honor given to a civilian by the Salvation Army; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, John M. Flowers was named the Poughkeepsian of the Year, and the RNN TV Neighbor of the Week three times; he also received honorary proclamations from three different Mayors of Poughkeepsie; and

WHEREAS, This exceptional humanitarian was overwhelmed with gratitude when the city of Poughkeepsie renamed lower Main Street in his honor; he spent many hours at the John M. Flowers circle reflecting on the many lives he touched with his events and the countless people who inspired him; and

WHEREAS, John M. Flowers died on Friday, August 21, 2015, at the age of 71; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his two sisters, Joan Slade Keys and Mildred Simmons, and his daughter, Larissa Flowers McKinnon, John M. Flowers is survived by his loving wife, Glenda Flowers; his five treasured daughters, Yvonne Flowers, Alicia (Fitz) Flowers-Mullings, Sheree (Levi) Flowers-Preston, Lashonda Flowers, and Shatia (Jerry) Flowers-Valerio; two loving sons, Frank (Lida) Flowers and John (Lilibeth) Flowers Jr.; a cherished niece, Crystal (Edward); a special nephew, Dennis (Vickie); three brothers, Larry (Paula), Horye (Theodora), and Wilfred Flowers; two sisters, Delphia and LaDedra (AC), his devoted life partner and friend, Ralphyne Vance; 18 grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends; and

WHEREAS, John M. Flowers not only brought his expertise to every task,

he brought his passion, enthusiasm, and experience as well; over his meritorious life, he distinguished himself as a man of values and commitment and of sincere dedication and substantial contribution; and WHEREAS, Individuals such as John M. Flowers, devoted to improving the quality of life for others, enabling them to build lives of dignity and

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self-worth, are deserving of the highest praise and recognition; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor John M. Flowers posthumously upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of a Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of John M. Flowers.