

2015-K1187

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Dr. Solomon Wallace, Sovereign Grand Commander of the United Supreme Council, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliation, Northern Jurisdiction United States of America, Incorporated

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

WHEREAS, Dr. Solomon Wallace died on Wednesday, March 30, 2016, in Jamaica, New York, at the age of 87; and

WHEREAS, Homegoing celebrations for Dr. Solomon Wallace were held on Wednesday, April 6, 2016, followed by a wake and Masonic services on Thursday, April 7, 2016, and funeral services on Friday, April 8, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Born on October 8, 1928, in Raleigh, North Carolina, to Aycue and Eliza Wallace, Solomon Wallace had seven brothers and sisters; and

WHEREAS, Solomon Wallace attended Shaw University, in Raleigh; after moving to New York, he continued studying at City College of New York; shortly thereafter, he met and married the love of his life, Gloria M.

(Brown); together they were the proud parents of one daughter, Winnie; and

WHEREAS, After serving his country as a member of the United States Army during the Korean War, Solomon Wallace received an honorable discharge; he then went to work as an engineer for the Mayer Malbin Company of Long Island, New York; he retired after 28 years of distinguished service; and

WHEREAS, In 1964, Solomon Wallace joined Samson Lodge No. 65 and was elected Worshipful Master in 1968; he was also a member and Past Patron

of Gardenia Chapter No. 41, and an Honorary Past Grand Patron of Eureka Grand Chapter, Prince Hall Order Eastern Star, Incorporated (State of New York); and

WHEREAS, In 1967, he was one of seven Prince Hall Masons who founded the Prince Hall Day Care Center, for children two to five years old; and

WHEREAS, Between June of 1983 and June of 1995, Solomon Wallace was elected and served as the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, State of New York; during his leadership, his focus was on improving the Masonic Order and the development of young people; and

WHEREAS, In August of 2006, Solomon Wallace became Sovereign Grand Commander of the United Supreme Council, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliation, Northern Jurisdiction United States of America, Incorporated; and

WHEREAS, He was the first Sovereign Grand Commander to serve from the State of New York in more than 100 years; in May of 2007, he was elected to his first full term; and

WHEREAS, In 2012, Solomon Wallace received the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Wilberforce University, Wilberforce, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, Among his many accomplishments, Dr. Solomon Wallace established the Grand Lodge of the Caribbean, computerized the Grand Lodge Office in New York City, erected a Class "A" Coed Sleep Away Camp for underprivileged children known as Camp Eureka; built a 97-unit apartment complex for senior citizens named the Solomon Wallace Building - Prince Hall Plaza in New York City; included sisters of the Prince Hall Order Eastern Star (State of New York) in the Benevolent Fund; and introduced and initiated numerous men into the Craft, including but not limited to:

Reverend Dr. Calvin Butts (Pastor-Abyssinian Baptist Church & President of Old Westbury College); Congressman Charles Rangel (Congressional Black Caucus & Chair, House Ways and Means Committee); Reverend Al

Sharpton (National Action Network and MSNBC); The Honorable David Dinkins, first black Mayor of New York City; Reverend Jesse Jackson (Rainbow/PUSH Coalition); and Dr. Louis Sullivan (Presidential Cabinet Member and Secretary of Health and Human Services); and

WHEREAS, A dedicated community member, Dr. Solomon Wallace contributed his time and energies to numerous organizations such as: the American Red Cross, The Neighborhood Artist Program, The National Assault on Illiteracy Program; National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); and Friends of Harlem Hospital; and

WHEREAS, As a direct result of his faith and dedication, Dr. Solomon Wallace was the recipient of numerous awards and accolades, among them are: the Humanitarian Award by the American Red Cross; The Gold Medal Award, Top Honor of the United Supreme Council (Prince Hall Affiliation); and the Distinguished Achievement Award from the Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, State of New York (highest honor the Grand Lodge confers); and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Dr. Solomon Wallace was recognized by Ebony Magazine as one of "America's 150 Most Influential Leaders"; he received the Man of the Year Award by the New York City Chamber of Commerce, the Life Membership Award by the Improved Benevolent Protective Order of Elks of the World, and the Citizen Service Award by the Jamaica Service Program for Older Adults; and

WHEREAS, In November of 2014, Sovereign Grand Commander Solomon Wallace had the distinct honor of having a masonic lodge named and chartered in his name: the Solomon Wallace Lodge No. 125 was chartered under the Administration of Most Worshipful Grand Master Dorian R. Glover in Syracuse, New York, to operate in the city of Watertown, New York; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Solomon Wallace truly lived in service to his country, his family and work, the community, and foremost his Masonic Craft; a devout Christian, he was an Ordained Deacon for the New Jerusalem Baptist Church of Jamaica, New York; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his wife of more than 56 years, Gloria M.

Wallace, Dr. Solomon Wallace is survived by his daughter, Winnie (Philip) Morgan; his devoted nephew, Wilton Larry Wallace; nephews, Michael L. (Donna) Ransdell, Albert L. Wallace, Jr., Arthur Wallace, and Reginald E. Wallace; nieces, Tracy Hicks (Dwane) Branch and Vanessa Roberson-Powell; and cousin, Odesa Wilbon Williams; as well as a host of

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other relatives, friends, and his entire masonic family; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Dr. Solomon Wallace leaves behind a legacy 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. Solomon Wallace, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Dr. Solomon Wallace.