

2015-J5034

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Prince Rogers Nelson, known to the world as Prince, a pop icon, singer-songwriter, musician, record producer, actor and distinguished citizen

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor and pay tribute to the lives of individuals whose commitment and creative talents have contributed to the entertainment and cultural enrichment of the State of New York and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Prince Rogers Nelson, known to the world as Prince, a pop culture icon, died on April 21, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Prince was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, to African-American parents, on June 7, 1958; and

WHEREAS, After recording a demo tape with producer Chris Moon, Prince was introduced to Minneapolis businessman Owen Husney, who signed him to a management contract at the age of 17; and

WHEREAS, The talented young musician was signed to Warner Brothers Records and released his first album, "For You", in 1978, producing, arranging, composing and playing all 27 instruments on the recording; and

WHEREAS, The exceptionally prolific artist would release 39 albums, including the seminal "Purple Rain" soundtrack in 1984, which sold more than 22 million copies worldwide, and was ranked the 15th greatest album of all time by TIME magazine; and

WHEREAS, The "Purple Rain" film, containing several concert scenes, marked Prince's movie debut, and grossed more than 80 million dollars at the box office; and

WHEREAS, The innovative megastar changed his name to a symbol in 1993, and was often referred to as The Artist Formerly Known as Prince, before reverting back to his Prince moniker in 2000; and

WHEREAS, Billboard ranked his 2007 performance at the Super Bowl XLI press conference the greatest Super Bowl performance of all time; and
WHEREAS, Prince sold over 100 million records worldwide, standing as one of the best-selling artists in history, and won seven Grammy Awards, a Golden Globe and an Academy Award, and was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2004; and

WHEREAS, This musical pioneer creatively mixed rock, R&B, funk, hip-hop, disco, psychedelia, jazz and pop, and his charismatic stage performance and wide vocal range continue to be emulated by countless artists citing him as a creative influence; and

WHEREAS, This distinguished citizen was known for philanthropic acts, announcing in 2004 that he would donate 1.5 million dollars to New York's Harlem Children's Zone, Uptown Dance Academy and American Ballet Theatre; and

WHEREAS, The contributions of Prince will never be replicated, but will be forever remembered and celebrated as his legacy stands the test of time; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Prince Rogers Nelson, known to the world as Prince, a pop icon, singer-songwriter, musician, record producer, actor and distinguished citizen; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of the late Prince Rogers Nelson.