

2017-J3387

Senate Resolution No. 3387

BY: Senator KENNEDY

MOURNING the death of Ulrica A. Mesiah, noted educator, enthusiastic volunteer, and dedicated member of her community

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to honor the life and accomplishments of individuals whose enduring commitment and dedication significantly enhanced the quality of education in their community; and

WHEREAS, It is with great sorrow and deep regret that this Legislative Body records the passing of Ulrica A. Mesiah on Sunday, December 17, 2017, at the age of 94; and

WHEREAS, Ulrica A. Mesiah's purposeful life and endeavors were unerringly directed to teaching and advising not only the youth of her community, but everyone she came in contact with; and

WHEREAS, Born on September 12, 1923, in Buffalo, New York, Ulrica A. Mesiah, fondly known as Rica to her friends and family, was a student at School 17 and attended Fosdick Masten High School; and

WHEREAS, After graduating, Rica A. Mesiah earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Buffalo State Teachers College, and her master's degree in education from the University at Buffalo; she

also received a graduate reading certificate from Canisius College; and

WHEREAS, For many years, Rica A. Mesiah served as a reading teacher at several local schools including Buffalo Schools 44 and 66, Martin Luther King School, and the former Diocesan Educational Campus; and

WHEREAS, Rica A. Mesiah truly believed in the positive reinforcement her pupils received through extracurricular activities; she enjoyed designing school newspapers with her students and loved to introduce them to the music they would listen to at upcoming Kleinhans Music Hall events; and

WHEREAS, When she was not teaching or helping someone, Rica A. Mesiah was a vital and treasured member of her community; she was a founding member of the Buffalonians, and was a participant of the Buffalo Branch NAACP, Afro-American Historical Association, the Citizen Council for Human Relations, Blooming Hills, and Women for Human Rights and Dignity; and

WHEREAS, Rica A. Mesiah was proudly honored by the Buffalo Urban League for her decades of service and steadfast and unremitting commitment to her community; and

WHEREAS, Rica A. Mesiah is survived by her loving husband of 67 years, Frank M. Mesiah; her three daughters, Leza M., Nicolette F., and Francesca B.; and one goddaughter, Betty Chern Hughes; as well as many other relatives, friends and colleagues; and

WHEREAS, Over the course of her long and distinguished career, Rica A. Mesiah touched the lives of thousands of young people, their parents, and the communities she served; she leaves a legacy of learning and commitment which will long endure throughout Buffalo and its

neighboring communities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Ulrica A. Mesiah, recognizing her sincere dedication and substantial contribution as an uncommon educator and advisor; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Ulrica A. Mesiah.