

2017-J3813

Senate Resolution No. 3813

BY: Senator KENNEDY

MOURNING the death of David A. Collins, longtime Buffalo Common Councilmember, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community

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, David A. Collins of Buffalo, New York, died on January 25, 2018, at the age of 79; and

WHEREAS, Born in Prentiss, Mississippi, in 1938, David A. Collins graduated from Prentiss Normal Industrial Institute; he then attended Alcorn A&M College for a year and a half before moving to Buffalo in 1956; and

WHEREAS, It was in Buffalo that David A. Collins met and married the former Jean D. Brooks, his wife of 57 years; and

WHEREAS, David A. Collins attended Canisius College and worked at General Motors Corporation as an assembly worker before graduating from the State University of New York at Buffalo (UB) with a bachelor's degree in social services; he went on to teach at UB's South Campus for

25 years as an adjunct professor; and

WHEREAS, This extraordinary man also owned a remodeling business prior to his first election to the Common Council in 1977; and

WHEREAS, In a council career which traversed 18 years, David A. Collins was a champion for Buffalo's poorest neighborhoods and was best known for being the driving force behind the redevelopment of the War Memorial Stadium site; and

WHEREAS, Due to the tenacity of David A. Collins, the Johnnie B. Wiley Amateur Sports Pavilion was built to replace War Memorial Stadium, which had fallen into disrepair after new stadiums were constructed for the Buffalo Bills and the Buffalo Bisons; and

WHEREAS, A staunch community activist his entire life, David A. Collins directed the Employment Information Center and worked with the Community Action Organization to secure grants for such initiatives as the Weatherization Program and the Senior Companion Program; and

WHEREAS, David A. Collins was actively involved in the Pullman porters forming the first all-black union; additionally, he was instrumental in breaking down racial barriers through his leadership involvement with the NAACP; and

WHEREAS, A true asset to his community, David A. Collins served on the boards of National Head Start, the Community Action Organization and the board of trustees at Buffalo General Hospital; he was also a United

Way board member and served in the National Christians & Jews Organization; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his wife, David A. Collins is survived by his two daughters, Michelle and Senora; a sister, Sherell; and six grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, David A. Collins 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 David A. Collins, longtime Buffalo Common Councilmember, 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 David A. Collins.