

2019-J2938

Senate Resolution No. 2938

BY: Senator PARKER

CELEBRATING the life and accomplishments of Toni Morrison, notable African-American writer

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to a woman whose captivating words and spectacular achievements greatly influenced this State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to celebrate the life and accomplishments of Toni Morrison, notable African-American writer; she died on Monday, August 5, 2019, in the Bronx, at the age of 88; and

WHEREAS, Toni Morrison, born on February 18, 1931 in Lorain, Ohio, was a spectacular and well-known African-American novelist, writer, editor and Professor; and

WHEREAS, She was the first African-American woman senior editor at Random House publishing company; and

WHEREAS, In 1970, Toni Morrison published her first novel, The Bluest Eye; and she would go on to achieve additional literary success with novels such as Sula, Song of Solomon, and Beloved; and

WHEREAS, Through her prolific writings, Toni Morrison gave credence to the black experience in America; and

WHEREAS, Toni Morrison's work helped foster black writers and a genre of black literature; and

WHEREAS, From 1984 to 1988, Toni Morrison was a Professor of the Humanities at the State University of New York in Albany; and

WHEREAS, Toni Morrison was awarded the Barnard Medal of Distinction from Barnard College; she also received the New York State Governor's Arts Award; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Toni Morrison was the first African-American woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature, and, on May 29, 2012, she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom; and

WHEREAS, Toni Morrison is survived by her son, Harold Ford Morrison, and three grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Toni Morrison leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all she served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to celebrate the life and accomplishments of Toni Morrison, notable African-American writer; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Toni Morrison.