

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Dr. Mars Andrew Hill upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the African American Cultural Center of the Capital Region, Inc. on April 18, 2013

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to those individuals of historic and artistic significance whose creative talents have contributed to the cultural enrichment of our communities and our Nation; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Dr. Mars Andrew Hill upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the African American Cultural Center of the Capital Region, Inc., at its Gala Event on Thursday, April 18, 2013, in the Swyer Theater at the Egg, Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, Playwright, author and engineer, Dr. Mars Andrew Hill is being recognized for excellence in Theater Arts and Literature, and for his life-long dedication to promoting the contributions of African Americans to American arts and culture; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Mars Andrew Hill was born in Arkansas and raised in Chicago; he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Architectural Engineering from the University of Illinois, and a Master's degree in Black History Studies, as well as a PhD in Humanistic Studies, from the University at Albany, State University of New York; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Mars Andrew Hill worked as an engineer for the New York State Department of Transportation, retiring after 25 years; and

WHEREAS, Steeped in the world of theater, Dr. Mars Andrew Hill wrote and produced many plays that were performed throughout the State, including "Cavorting with the Wharton," which won the New York State Cap Award; he also founded and directed a theater company, the Black Experience Ensemble, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, At the age of 75, Dr. Mars Andrew Hill wrote his first novel, THE MOANER'S BENCH, a semi-autobiographical coming-of-age tale of a young boy and his uncle, which was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Mars Andrew Hill is the recipient of a multitude of awards and certificates of recognition acknowledging his efforts of in-depth magnitude; he has been honored by the Albany NAACP, the Albany League of Arts, the Albany District Links, the New York State Council on the Arts, the Albany Black Men's Association, Israel AME Church and the Empire State Black Arts Festival; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Mars Andrew Hill is a multifaceted individual with diverse interests; he is an avid skier, tennis player, fisherman and swimmer, as well as an accomplished cook who is well-known for his gourmet meals and participation in the Men Who Cook showcase; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Mars Andrew Hill has been married to his beloved wife, retired teacher Alvania Hill, for 56 years; they are the proud parents of one son, Joffrey (Vernita) Hill, and the loving grandfather of two granddaughters, Kiera and Imani; and

WHEREAS, It is most fitting that we take time to celebrate the artists within the great State of New York, and to cherish and give thanks for our American freedom, the only atmosphere in which artists can truly create and in which art is truly the expression of the soul; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Dr. Mars Andrew Hill upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the African American Cultural Center of the Capital Region, Inc., on April 18, 2013; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dr. Mars Andrew Hill.

