

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Dabney N. Montgomery upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after a lifetime of loyalty and distinguished service as a renown Tuskegee Airman

WHEREAS, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals of remarkable courage and strength of character who risked their own lives for others, and stood with fortitude for freedom and humanity; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Dabney N. Montgomery upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after a lifetime of loyalty and distinguished service as a renown Tuskegee Airman, to be celebrated on Saturday, May 4, 2013; and

WHEREAS, On April 18, 2013, Dabney N. Montgomery turned 90 years old; and

WHEREAS, Born in Selma, Alabama on April 18, 1923, to Dred and Lula Anderson Montgomery, Dabney Montgomery was drafted into the Army Air Corps (now the United States Air Force), during World War II and served in the 1051st Quartermaster Company of the 96th Air Service Group, attached to the 332nd Air Fighter Group, as a ground crewman with the Tuskegee Airmen in Southern Italy, from 1943 to 1945; and

WHEREAS, A man of many achievements, Dabney Montgomery was awarded a Good Conduct Medal; the WWII Victory Medal; the European African Middle Eastern Service Medal with two Bronze Stars; a Service Award; the Honorable Service Medal; a Basic Driver and Mechanic Medal; and the New York State Senate Veterans Hall of Fame Award; and

WHEREAS, To continue his education, in 1946 Dabney Montgomery enrolled into Livingstone College, located in Salisbury, North Carolina, and received a B.A. degree in Religious Education in May of 1949; he is a Charter Member of the Sphinx Club and was one of the first to be admitted into the Gamma Mu Chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Montgomery was an activist in the course of the Civil Rights Movement and marched with the late Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. throughout the 50-plus miles March from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, from March 21-25, 1965; he also served as one of Dr. King's bodyguards; and

WHEREAS, On April 11, 2006, former President George W. Bush signed a bill into law to award all Documented Original Tuskegee Airmen the United States Congressional Gold Medal of Honor; it was awarded on Thursday, March 29, 2007, under the Capitol Dome in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, In December of 2006, Dabney Montgomery was selected by the Livingstone College National Alumni Association to receive the Prestigious Outstanding Alumni Award; it was presented on February 2, 2007, by the National Alumni Council of the United Negro College Fund in Nashville, Tennessee; on February 4, 2010, he was inducted into the United Negro College Fund "Share Your Love" and Service in Celebration of Livingstone College Leaders Hall of Fame; these distinguished awards recognize alumni who have made significant contributions to their alma mater, community, and the UNCF; and

WHEREAS, Dabney Montgomery is involved in the Harlem community and is a member of Manhattan Community Board No. 10, where he serves on two sub-committees: Parks and Recreation, and the Executive Committee; as a member of the Parks and Recreation Committee, he wrote a letter to the Parks Department of the City of New York, as a proposal to recognize Central Park West (at 85th and 86th Streets) as the historical site of

African American settlers in the early 1820s, which was then Seneca Village; Mother Zion was, for a short time, located there; and

WHEREAS, The settlers were evicted in 1857 under the City's "eminent domain" project; a permanent sign now stands marking the site; and

WHEREAS, Dabney Montgomery is currently the chaplain of the West 136th Street 200th Block Association; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Montgomery has received numerous awards for his community involvement, including: the Social Action Award for his civil rights activism; an "American Hero" declaration; a Trailblazer Award from the International Brotherhood of Teamsters; a Tuskegee Airmen Legacy Award for heroic and dedicated service; and a Citation for Extraordinary Service to Our Nation and Sacrifices in the Civil Rights Movement; and

WHEREAS, Dabney Montgomery is truly a person who loves his family and country; his pride, faith, and distinguished service make him meritoriously worthy of this designation; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention it is appropriate to publicly proclaim and commend those individuals for the edification and emulation of others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Dabney N. Montgomery upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition after a lifetime of loyalty and distinguished service as a renown Tuskegee Airman; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dabney N. Montgomery.