

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Fred T. Simmons upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award by the African-American/Caribbean Education Association, Inc. on August 8, 2013

WHEREAS, Individuals who give of their time and energies and serve the best interests of their communities are an asset beyond remuneration and cannot be sufficiently extolled; and

WHEREAS, Fred T. Simmons has given not only of his time and energies but also of his competence, intelligence and leadership and consequently has been designated for special recognition; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Fred T. Simmons upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award by the African-American/Caribbean Education Association, Inc., to be celebrated at its 6th Annual Banquet in Jamaica, New York on Thursday, August 8, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Fred T. Simmons, the proud son of Willie and Eloise Simmons, is the oldest of six siblings that migrated to Queens, New York, from Sanford, North Carolina, in 1967; having an avid interest in community affairs, he decided to enroll in the Bachelors of Professional Studies Program at the College for Human Services, which later became Audrey Cohen College; and

WHEREAS, After college, Fred T. Simmons was inspired by the good works of the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN), a group that advocates for low and moderate-income families by working on neighborhood safety, voter registration, health care, affordable housing, and other social issues; under the tutelage of ACORN, Fred became an advocate fighting for change and making his community aware of a magnitude of resources; and

WHEREAS, Assisting ACORN with abandoned homes, Fred T. Simmons was instrumental in establishing a policy that made it possible for families to be relocated into affordable housing; he also helped in the fight for jobs, livable wages, equal education and various other housing issues; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, as part of the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993, the first ACORN High School in the nation was created under his luminous direction; and

WHEREAS, An avid volunteer, Fred T. Simmons has selflessly given of his time and energy by volunteering at the People United to Save Our Children and the 100 Man Choir; leading a Boys Scouts of America troop; serving as a parent advisor at the 103rd Precinct Explorers Program; serving as a board member to Beacon schools I.S. 8 and J.H. S.72; forming the youth group Bringing Teens Together, and local block association groups through Residential People for Improvement; organizing summer youth programs; volunteering for Forestdale Fathers Project, and being a veteran Member of the African-American/Caribbean Education Association, Inc. Scholarship Committee; and

WHEREAS, In addition, he is the Co-Founder of Teens Against Crime Inc., Operation Safe South East Queens, and Biz Kids; and

WHEREAS, Fred T. Simmons is married to his lifelong friend and partner, Florence Simmons, and together they have three wonderful children, and six beautiful grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of his community service, a period of constructive involvement, Fred T. Simmons has stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Fred T. Simmons has displayed throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individ-

uals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Fred T. Simmons upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award by the African-American/Caribbean Education Association, Inc.; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Fred T. Simmons.