

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 95th Anniversary of the Grace African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of Patchogue, New York, to be celebrated on May 18, 2014

WHEREAS, Religious institutions, and the many spiritual, social and educational benefits they confer, play a vital role in the development of the moral fabric of a responsible citizenry; and

WHEREAS, It is the tradition of this State and this Nation to pay tribute to those institutions and individuals who have contributed to the ethical and spiritual values of their communities; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body takes pleasure in commemorating the 95th Anniversary of the Grace African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of Patchogue, New York, to be celebrated on Sunday, May 18, 2014; and

WHEREAS, In the summer of 1918, a group of interested community members met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Joaquin of Patchogue, New York, to discuss the possibility of organizing a church; members of the committee included Mr. and Mrs. Glenwood Hunter, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur P. Yancy, Beatrice Joaquin, and the Host and Hostess; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Carlup Edwards and Reverend Harry Wilson, both of New York City, shared the common interest of the group, and encouraged their organization of an African American Church in the area; until a building was acquired, religious services were conducted at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Joaquin; and

WHEREAS, The following persons were elected officers of this newly formed mission: trustee board members consisted of Arthur P. Yancy, President; David C. Joaquin, Secretary; and Arthur Joaquin, Treasurer; stewardess board members consisted of Mrs. Arthur P. Yancy, President; Mrs. Glenwood E. Hunter, Secretary; and Mrs. Arthur Joaquin, Treasurer; and

WHEREAS, In the months to follow, numerous activities were held by the group to help reach their goal; a vacant lot at the corner of Cleveland Street and Grant Place was purchased for the site of the new church; in 1920, the cornerstone for the church was laid; and

WHEREAS, The church was named Grace African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of Patchogue, and had been entered into the New York A.M.E. Zion Conference the previous year under Bishop J.S. Caldwell; and

WHEREAS, The Patchogue Congregational Church helped the Grace African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of Patchogue by contributing pews, pulpit furniture, and other useful articles; and

WHEREAS, Several ministers gave generously of their time, energy, and travel to achieve many accomplishments of the Grace African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of Patchogue; each in their own way, whether spiritually, physically, or financially, has added to the growth and success of the Grace African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of Patchogue, in beautification, strength, love, and fellowship; and

WHEREAS, Through the years, the Grace African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of Patchogue has experienced many changes; today, it is the oldest African American Church in Patchogue, and continues to build on the firm foundation of their forefathers with the cooperation of their congregation and dedicated leaders; and

WHEREAS, The Grace African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of Patchogue stands on the threshold of tomorrow, prepared to meet the challenges of the coming decades while retaining that spiritual resolve which characterizes its past; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to take note of enduring religious institutions and to bring such institutions to the attention of the people of this Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to

commemorate the 95th Anniversary of the Grace African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of Patchogue to be observed on May 18, 2014, fully confident that this commemoration reflects the belief in those values which enhance the dignity and purpose of life; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Grace African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Patchogue, New York.