

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Westbury Gospel Tabernacle of Westbury, New York, to be celebrated June 21-28, 2015

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 50th Anniversary of Westbury Gospel Tabernacle of Westbury, New York, to be celebrated with a series of events from June 21-28, 2015; and

WHEREAS, The week-long festivities will include services with several esteemed religious leaders, including Bishop Roderick Caesar, Bishop-Elect Reverend Jacqueline McCullough, Pastor and Mrs. Stephen Samuel, Bishop-Elect Reverend Sheldon B. Ferguson, and Reverend Ronald Wilson; and

WHEREAS, Westbury Gospel Tabernacle is a branch of Church of Bethel Gospel Tabernacle, Inc. located in Jamaica, Queens, New York, and led by Bishop Roderick R. Caesar; and

WHEREAS, During the 1960s, Bishop Roderick Caesar, Sr. founded Westbury Gospel Tabernacle with the cooperation of dedicated leaders and faithful members; this dynamic religious institution humbly began in a concrete garage and repair shop on Prospect Avenue; and

WHEREAS, Five decades later, Westbury Gospel Tabernacle stands as a beautiful house of worship serving the New Cassel community and throughout Nassau County; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, numerous leaders and members have served Westbury Gospel Tabernacle with distinction; in 1997, Bishop Roderick R. Caesar installed Reverend Stephen Samuel as Senior Pastor of Westbury Gospel Tabernacle, a position he continues to hold with the loving support of his family, church leaders, and the congregation; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous leadership of Pastor Stephen Samuel, Westbury Gospel Tabernacle 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 50th Anniversary of Westbury Gospel Tabernacle, 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 Pastor Stephen Samuel, Westbury Gospel Tabernacle.