

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the First Baptist Church of Crown Heights upon hosting its Veterans Service on April 10, 2016, and paying tribute to this year's honorees

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 Nation to pay tribute to those institutions and individuals who have contributed to the ethical and spiritual values of their communities; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the First Baptist Church of Crown Heights upon hosting its Veterans Service on Sunday, April 10, 2016, in Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, This year's honored veterans include Henry Eugene Berger, Marion Bowden, Charles Brown, Ollie Burch, Barry Bragton, Michael Cochran, Michael Dyer, Brian Ford, Charles Ford, Benjamin Everson, Norwood Hughes, Charles Henderson, Robert Jackson, Charles Jordan, Feber Kennedy, Robert Lewis III, Hipolito Manzo, Ronald Newman, Joseph Lawson, Francis Hebb, Russell Taylor, Darryl K. Taylor, Ms. Patricia McMillan, Hiawatha Olds, Beverly Woods, Mary Silvers and Freddie Simmons; and

WHEREAS, The First Baptist Church of Crown Heights was founded on April 30, 1953, for the purpose of proclaiming a gospel message relevant to man's needs in a changing society, as well as to work towards the liberation of men from all forms of oppression whether it be spiritual, social, political or economic; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, the First Baptist Church of Crown Heights has continued to grow and expand in its mission of gathering disciples for Jesus Christ under the able leadership of the late Pastor Clarence Norman; and

WHEREAS, In addition, this esteemed religious institution has addressed community issues such as job training, housing development, and has offered services for the homeless and the elderly as part of its outreach ministry; and

WHEREAS, Today, under the luminous guidance of Pastor Daryl G. Bloodsaw, the First Baptist Church of Crown Heights continues to thrive as a source of spiritual guidance and fulfillment to the Crown Heights community and beyond; and

WHEREAS, The First Baptist Church of Crown Heights now 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 commend the First Baptist Church of Crown Heights upon hosting its Veterans Service on April 10, 2016, and to pay tribute to this year's honorees; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Reverend Daryl G. Bloodsaw, First Baptist Church of Crown Heights, Brooklyn, New York, and the aforementioned honorees.