

BY: Senator KENNEDY

COMMEMORATING the 90th Anniversary of the Buffalo Urban League, Inc.

WHEREAS, In the course of the evolving development of this Empire State, if the ingredients of shared concern and responsive endeavor combine in the commitment to society, there have emerged among the distinguished citizens of the State of New York certain organizations which warrant special recognition; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to commend those illustrious organizations of the State of New York whose focus and intent have made a substantial impact on the quality of life in their communities; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of the Buffalo Urban League, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Established in 1927, by an multiracial group of prominent citizens, the Buffalo Urban League was formed to address the employment, housing and social needs of African-Americans and immigrants migrating from the South to the North; and

WHEREAS, Within three years of its inception, some 60 groups met regularly at what became known as The Chapel; one of these groups which began as a Works Progress Administration (WPA) orchestra was the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra; and

WHEREAS, The agency officially became known as the Buffalo Urban League, Inc. in 1945, although many continued to call it The Chapel; and

WHEREAS, In 1976, the Buffalo Urban League headed a team of organizations seeking quality education in the City of Buffalo in light of the Federal Court decision regarding desegregation of the Buffalo Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, In 1984, the Urban League and the New York State Department of Social Services began an innovative program designed to facilitate the matching of potential adoptive parents with children available for adoption in Erie County; and

WHEREAS, A Minority and Women Community Revolving Loan Trust Fund was established in 1990, to provide low interest working capital loans to minority and women-owned businesses; seven years later, Buffalo Urban League's Adoption Program was certified, a first in the history of the minority community in Western New York; and

WHEREAS, With one of the largest scholarship programs in the region, the Buffalo Urban League provides more than 150 scholarships each year; in addition, this vital organization's education programs prepare youth

for college, employment, and life through academic support, life skills, character exploration and vocational skills training; and

WHEREAS, Remaining true to its mission, the Buffalo Urban League empowers African-Americans, other minorities and disadvantaged individuals to secure economic self-reliance, parity, power and civil rights; and

WHEREAS, The Buffalo Urban League is based on a five point empowerment strategy designed to build strong and stable families: Education and Youth Empowerment ensures the education of all children by providing access to early childhood literacy, after-care programs and college scholarships; Economic Empowerment invests in the financial literacy and employability of adults through job training, homeownership and entrepreneurship; Health and Quality of Life Empowerment promotes community wellness through a focus on prevention, including fitness, healthy eating and access to affordable healthcare; Civic Engagement and Leadership Empowerment encourages all people to take an active role to improve quality of life through participation in community service projects and public policy initiatives; and Civil Rights and Racial Justice Empowerment guarantees equal participation in all facets of American society through proactive public policies and community-based programs; and

WHEREAS, Over its distinguished 90 year history, the Buffalo Urban League has demonstrated continuous service to the residents and communities which it serves; and

WHEREAS, The success of the Buffalo Urban League is in direct correlation to the efforts of its members, whose involvement is, and always has been, characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all endeavors on behalf of the organization and the community it serves; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious occasion presents an opportunity for this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to the Buffalo Urban League; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be recognized and applauded by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of the Buffalo Urban League, Inc.; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Buffalo Urban League, Inc.