

Senate Resolution No. 102

**BY:** Senator BENJAMIN

**CELEBRATING** the life and exemplary career of The Honorable David N. Dinkins, former Mayor of New York City, distinguished citizen, and devoted member of his community

**WHEREAS,** This Legislative Body, representing the people of the State of New York, is moved this day to pay tribute to an eminent gentleman of indomitable faith and dedication whose public service and countless accomplishments will forever stand as a paradigm and inspiration for others; and

**WHEREAS,** It is with profound sorrow and deep regret that this Legislative Body records the passing of The Honorable David N. Dinkins, noting the significance of his purposeful life and triumphs; and

**WHEREAS,** David N. Dinkins, the first and only Black Mayor of New York City, died on Monday, November 23, 2020, at his residence in Manhattan at the age of 93; and

**WHEREAS,** David Norman Dinkins was born to Sarah "Sally" Lucy and William Harvey Dinkins Jr. on July 10, 1927, in Trenton, New Jersey; upon the separation of his parents, he and his sister were raised by their father, a barber and real estate agent; and

**WHEREAS,** After graduating from Trenton Central High School in 1945, David N. Dinkins proudly served his country as one of the Montford Point Marines, the first Black Marines to serve in the branch, from July 1945 through August 1946, attaining the rank of private first class; for his admirable service, he was the recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal by the United States Senate and House of Representatives; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1950, David N. Dinkins earned his bachelor's degree cum laude from Howard University, and six years later, he obtained his Bachelor of Laws from Brooklyn Law School; shortly thereafter, he began his esteemed law career and became interested in politics; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1966, David N. Dinkins served as a member of the New York State Assembly for the 78th District, and held the leadership positions of President of the New York City Board of Elections from 1972-1973, New York City Clerk from 1975-1985, and Manhattan Borough President from 1986-1989; and

**WHEREAS,** On November 7, 1989, David N. Dinkins was elected Mayor of New York City, defeating three-term incumbent Mayor Ed Koch; and

**WHEREAS,** Throughout his tenure, Mayor David N. Dinkins strived to improve race relations and enthusiastically promoted New York City's demographic diversity as a "gorgeous mosaic"; in his attempt to lower the city's crime rate, he hired Raymond W. Kelly as Police Commissioner, implemented a hiring program that expanded the police department by

nearly 25%, and diligently worked to keep schools open into the evening, an award-winning initiative that kept tens of thousands of teenagers off the street; and

**WHEREAS,** Mayor David N. Dinkins was also instrumental in preserving the public status of garbage removal, and greatly increased New York City's economy by creating high profile events such as Fashion Week, Restaurant Week, and Broadway on Broadway and signing a last-minute 99-year lease with the USTA National Tennis Center; and

**WHEREAS,** This renowned public servant was committed to cleaning up the City by revitalizing Times Square and rehabilitating dilapidated housing in northern Harlem, the South Bronx, and Brooklyn, and for his great success in decreasing the size of the city's homeless shelter population to its lowest point in two decades; and

**WHEREAS,** Upon the end of his political career, David N. Dinkins joined the Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs as a professor of professional practice in 1994, and served as a full-time faculty member until his death; and

**WHEREAS,** A man of many interests and passions, David N. Dinkins was actively involved with numerous worthy organizations including the United States Tennis Association, the Jazz Foundation of America, the New York City Global Partners, the Children's Health Fund, the Association to Benefit Children, the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund, Independent News & Media, the Black Leadership Forum, the Council on Foreign Relations, and the National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS; and

**WHEREAS,** In 2013, David N. Dinkins published **A Mayor's Life: Governing New York's Gorgeous Mosaic**, and his radio program "Dialogue with Dinkins" aired on WLIB radio in New York City from 1994-2014; and

**WHEREAS,** Predeceased by his loving wife of 63 years, Joyce, David N. Dinkins is survived by one daughter, Donna, and one son, David Jr., as well as numerous colleagues, friends and fellow New Yorkers who will long cherish his memory; and

**WHEREAS,** David N. Dinkins truly loved people, especially children, and spent most of his life trying to make the five boroughs of New York City, and New York State as a whole, a better place for them to live, work and play; and

**WHEREAS,** Over a long and meritorious life of service on behalf of others, David N. Dinkins was a man of action, of integrity, and of commitment, whose true compassion was generously given to all who knew him; and

**WHEREAS,** Armed with a humanistic spirit, David N. Dinkins leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all he served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations in a moment of silent tribute to The Honorable David N. Dinkins, philanthropist, best-selling author, dedicated lawyer, and steadfast public servant; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of The Honorable David N. Dinkins.