

Senate Resolution No. 138

BY: Senator STEWART-COUSINS

CONGRATULATING Mother Marie Smalls upon the occasion of celebrating her 105th Birthday on January 16, 2021

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to commemorate and recognize certain milestones celebrated by residents of this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Senior citizens bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the increasingly active roles that they play in today's society; their past contributions and future participation are vital parts of, and valuable assets to, the fabric of community life and activity; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Mother Marie Smalls upon the occasion of celebrating her 105th Birthday; and

WHEREAS, Mother Marie Smalls was born on January 16, 1916; in 1938, she moved from South Carolina to White Plains, New York, where she has lived for 82 years; and

WHEREAS, Mother Marie Smalls has been an active member of Calvary Baptist Church for 75 years and is the church's oldest living member; there, she serves as a member of the Gospel Chorus and, before the COVID-19 pandemic, she attended Sunday Morning Worship Service every week without fail; and

WHEREAS, An inspiring influence on her family and church, Mother Marie Smalls has been a member of Calvary Baptist Church throughout the tenure of all six of its pastors and has been one of the primary financial supporters of both Calvary Baptist and her home church in South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, With her husband, Joseph Smalls, Mother Marie Smalls raised five children, all of whom attended schools in the White Plains school system and graduated from White Plains High School; while her children were students, she served on the PTA Committees of the schools they attended; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Mother Marie Smalls volunteered as a Den Mother for the Cub Scouts and "Troop Mother" of the Boy Scouts of America; she was also an Assistant Troop Leader for the Girl Scouts of America; and

WHEREAS, For many years, Mother Marie Smalls was an active member of both the Urban League and the NAACP in White Plains; and

WHEREAS, With her zest for life, this exceptional semi-supercentenarian has inspired and enhanced the lives of her family and friends; she has truly enriched the lives of those around her

through her joyous and sincere love for others and through the quiescent charm and wisdom which comes only from a fullness of years; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to publicly recognize those who have reached such a remarkable age and who have witnessed and celebrated the innovations, cultural developments and awesome achievements of this country during the last century, while themselves contributing to the growth and excellence of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Mother Marie Smalls upon the occasion of celebrating her 105th Birthday; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Mother Marie Smalls.