

BY: Senator COMRIE

HONORING The Reverend Dr. Floyd H. Flake upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the Greater Allen Cathedral of New York on January 30, 2022

WHEREAS, The character and richness of religious and community life in this noble Empire State is nourished and fulfilled through the faithful concern and selfless devotion of those who would commit their energies and purpose to the ministry of others; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor The Reverend Dr. Floyd H. Flake upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the Greater Allen Cathedral of New York on Sunday, January 30, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Former United States Congressman, The Reverend Dr. Floyd H. Flake is the senior pastor of the more than 23,000-member Greater Allen A. M. E. Cathedral of New York in Jamaica, Queens; until June 30, 2008, he concurrently served as President of Wilberforce University in Ohio; and

WHEREAS, During the 41-year pastorate of Reverend Dr. Floyd H. Flake, the Greater Allen Cathedral of New York has become one of the nation's foremost Christian churches and is listed among the top 20 churches in America; its operations are a national paradigm of church-centered, faith-based, public/private community educational and economic development; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, the church owns expansive commercial and residential developments, and various commercial and social service enterprises, as well as a 600-student private school which was founded by Reverend Dr. Floyd H. Flake and his wife, Elaine, placing it among the nation's most productive religious and urban development institutions and one of the Borough of Queens' largest private sector employers; and

WHEREAS, Under Reverend Dr. Floyd H. Flake's able leadership, and true to the Christian doctrine of self-help and communal responsibility, the Greater Allen Cathedral of New York has provided resources and guidance for innumerable faith-based and secular institutions; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Floyd H. Flake's administrative structure, efficiency, and development efforts have increasingly attracted international and national recognition in print and electronic media; he and the church have been profiled on CNN, CBS, BET, C-Span, and PBS, as well as in Time, Black Enterprise, Ebony, the New York Times, Readers Digest, the Los Angeles Times, and many other publications; and

WHEREAS, While continuing his responsibilities as pastor of the Greater Allen Cathedral of New York, Reverend Dr. Floyd H. Flake served

in the United States Congress from 1986 to 1997; during this time, he was also a member of the Banking and Finance and Small Business Committees, and chaired the Oversight, Investigation and Resolution of Failed Financial Institutions Committee; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Floyd H. Flake established a reputation for bipartisan, innovative legislative initiatives to revitalize urban commercial and residential communities; most notably, his Community Development Financial Institutions Act of 1993 which provided incentives for financial institutions to make market-oriented investments in destabilized urban and rural economies; and

WHEREAS, In Congress, Reverend Dr. Floyd H. Flake also concentrated on garnering Federal resources and projects for his community; he won two regional facilities, the Federal Drug Administration (F.D.A.) and the Federal Aviation Administration (F.A.A.), generating more than 2,000 jobs while also upgrading the stability and the aesthetics of the District; and

WHEREAS, Additionally, he prevailed upon the Clinton Administration to fund the Nation's first One Stop Small Business Capital Center, the Jamaica Business Resource Center, which is the model for additional centers now operating in the Federal Empowerment Zones, providing technical assistance and loans to small businesses; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dr. Floyd H. Flake also authored legislation to fund the expansion of JFK Airport and build the rail link from the plane to the train, which connects JFK to Jamaica and Penn Stations; this has been instrumental in the development of the Downtown Jamaica area; and

WHEREAS, This extraordinary man is a proponent of quality education and market oriented community and economic development through speeches and lectures in corporate settings, policy forums, seminars and divinity schools; he has lectured internationally and taught at the Harvard Divinity School's Annual Summer Leadership Institute; and

WHEREAS, Floyd H. Flake earned a Doctor of Ministry degree from the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Wilberforce University with additional studies at Payne Theological Seminary and Northeastern University School of Business; he also has numerous honorary degrees from Boston University, Fisk University, Lincoln University and Cheney State; and

WHEREAS, Prior to assuming the pastorate of the Greater Allen Cathedral of New York, Reverend Dr. Floyd H. Flake served in various capacities at Boston University, and as Director of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center and concurrently as Interim Dean of the Chapel, and Dean of Students; this followed successful stints as Associate Dean of Students at Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, and Marketing Analyst for the Xerox Corporation; and

WHEREAS, The Reverend Dr. Floyd H. Flake authored a best-selling book, **The Way of the Bootstrapper: Nine Action Steps for Achieving Your Dreams**, and he and his wife co-authored the book, **Practical Virtues:**

Everyday Values and Devotions for African American Families; his latest book the African American Church Management Handbook and published by Judson Press and released in December 2005; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his wife of 42 years, with him throughout have been his four children and one granddaughter, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his many accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, This distinguished man of God has always given enlightenment, guidance and wisdom to the many entrusted to his care and has administered abundantly and unstintingly to the spiritual and corporal needs of all; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor The Reverend Dr. Floyd H. Flake, noting his unremitting and compassionate faith and his exemplary service to God, man, and his community, and extending to him the heartfelt best wishes of this Legislative Body for a future of purposeful success and well-being; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Reverend Dr. Floyd H. Flake.