

Senate Resolution No. 1794

BY: Senator CLEARE

CELEBRATING the life of General Colin L. Powell, former United States Secretary of State, meritorious military leader and dedicated family man

WHEREAS, There are certain outstanding members of our community who, through their selfless commitment and dedication, have served to better the quality of life in our State and Nation, and who have had a measurable positive impact on the lives of its residents; Colin L. Powell was one such individual; and

WHEREAS, It is with profound sorrow and deep regret that this Legislative Body records the passing of Colin L. Powell, noting the significance of his purposeful life and accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Colin L. Powell, who in four decades of public life served as the nation's top soldier, diplomat and national security adviser, died on Monday, October 18, 2021, at the age of 84, from complications related to the novel coronavirus; and

WHEREAS, Colin Luther Powell was born in New York's Harlem neighborhood on April 5, 1937 to Luther and Maud Ariel (McKoy) Powell; in 1941, the family moved to the South Bronx, where Colin and his older sister grew up in a multiethnic community of West Indian, Italian and Jewish immigrants; and

WHEREAS, After graduating from Morris High School in 1954, Colin L. Powell studied geology at the City College of New York, and excelled in the Army's Reserve Officers' Training Corps (R.O.T.C.), becoming leader of the precision drill team and achieving the top rank of cadet colonel; and

WHEREAS, Colin L. Powell entered active duty service in 1958; from a young second lieutenant commissioned in the dawn of a newly desegregated United States Army, he valiantly served two decorated combat tours in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, Upon earning an MBA at George Washington University in 1971, Colin L. Powell won a prestigious White House fellowship, ending in the Office of Management and Budget in the fall of 1972; and

WHEREAS, In 1973, Colin L. Powell went back to the field to command an infantry battalion in South Korea, then studied for a year at the National War College; he took charge of a brigade of the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, before returning to Washington; and

WHEREAS, For four years, Colin L. Powell held a series of assignments as military assistant to one high-level Pentagon official after another; during this time, he received his first general's star and became the Army's youngest brigadier general; and

WHEREAS, Colin L. Powell rose rapidly through the ranks to become the youngest and first Black Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, the most senior member of the U.S. armed forces and top military advisor to the President; in this capacity, he was the architect of the invasion of Panama in 1989 and of the Persian Gulf war in 1991; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, as the Pentagon's top officer, he played a prominent role in restoring a sense of pride to the nation's post-Vietnam military and began the reshaping of American forces after the end of the Cold War; and

WHEREAS, As National Security Adviser to President Ronald Reagan, Colin L. Powell was instrumental in the negotiation of arms treaties and an era of cooperation with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev; and

WHEREAS, After retiring from the military in 1993, Colin L. Powell wrote a best-selling memoir, **My American Journey**, before returning to public service in 2001; his selection as President George W. Bush's Secretary of State transformed him from soldier to statesman and made him the first Black person to lead the State Department; and

WHEREAS, In his first year as Secretary, Colin L. Powell won the release of the crew of a U.S. surveillance plane from China, averted the pullout of U.S. troops from NATO peacekeeping operations in the Balkans, and facilitated the U.S. withdrawal from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty without provoking a harsh Russian backlash; and

WHEREAS, Eloquent, articulate and a skilled problem solver, Colin L. Powell had a knack for exuding authority while also putting others at ease; he was highly respected both at home and abroad, and was the proud two-time recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his meritorious contributions to the United States; and

WHEREAS, While he was passionate about many things, above all his greatest passion was being a loving husband, father, and grandfather; and

WHEREAS, A truly great American, Colin L. Powell's infinite selflessness and benevolence will shine on through his family's vivid and happy memories; his insight, strength and love for his country will forever serve as a beacon of light and hope to the countless lives he touched; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Colin L. Powell leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all who were privileged to have known and loved such an amazing man; he will be deeply missed and truly merits the grateful tribute of this Legislative Body; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to celebrate the life of General Colin L. Powell, and to express its deepest condolences to his family; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of General Colin L. Powell.