

BY: Senator PARKER

MOURNING the death of Sandra DesVignes, Mother of the Calypso, distinguished citizen and devoted member of her community

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor and pay tribute to those musical geniuses whose commitment and creative talents have contributed to the entertainment and cultural enrichment of their community and the entire State of New York; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is moved this day to memorialize the inspired life and career of Sandra DesVignes of Trinidad, who died on Thursday, January 28, 2021, at the age of 64; and

WHEREAS, Born in 1957 in East Dry River and raised in Morvant, Trinidad, Sandra DesVignes began singing and performing in various small productions from an early age, earning the nickname, Singing Sandra; and

WHEREAS, Growing up in a poor family and facing many hardships through her younger years, Sandra DesVignes overcame much adversity and in 1984 she was approached by calypsonian Dr. Zhivago to perform two of his songs; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, the following year Sandra DesVignes was recruited to Mighty Sparrow's Youth Brigade tent at the carnival; her exceptional musical talent, persistence and hard work resulted in her winning the National Calypso Queen in 1987; and

WHEREAS, From that moment on, Sandra DesVignes' career accelerated at an exponential rate; she went on to perform at the Reggae Sunsplash Festival in 1992, and won both the Carifesta Monarch and Calypso Queen of the World titles that same year; and

WHEREAS, Sandra DesVignes distinguished herself in her profession and by her sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of her community; and

WHEREAS, For decades, Sandra DesVignes not only entertained national and international audiences with her many calypsos, but was also respected as an educator via her songs; long before, "Time's Up" and "Me Too" movements took root, her songs embraced the women's movement and provided women with the rallying call for dignity; and

WHEREAS, Later, Sandra DesVignes formed the group United Sisters along with Lady B, Tigress, and Marvellous Marva, all while continuing perform as a solo artist; she consequently won the Best Nation Building Song Award at the 1997 carnival for the song "One Destiny One Heart"; and

WHEREAS, The recipient of many awards and accolades throughout her illustrious career in music, Sandra DesVignes was the second woman to

win Trinidad's Calypso Monarch title in 1999, and then again in 2003; additionally, she made history once more to become the only female Calypso artist to ever win the Calypso Monarch title twice; and

WHEREAS, The many accomplishments and sincere benevolence of Sandra DesVignes will shine on through her family's vivid and happy memories; her insight and strength will forever serve as a beacon of love, light and hope to the countless lives she touched; and

WHEREAS, Sandra DesVignes' dedication to her music leaves an indelible legacy of inspiration which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to her family, friends and countless fans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Sandra DesVignes, and express its deepest condolences to her family; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Sandra DesVignes.