

BY: Senator COMRIE

CONGRATULATING The Reverend John E. Davis upon the occasion of his retirement after more than four decades of devoted service to the ministry

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, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to bring full recognition and just tribute to those individuals who distinguish themselves and the ministry through their unremitting commitment and preeminence of service; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate The Reverend John E. Davis upon the occasion of his retirement after more than four decades of devoted service to the ministry; and

WHEREAS, John E. Davis was born in Jacksonville, Florida on November 15, 1927, to the late Ernest Davis and Evangelist Janie L. Davis; the family then relocated to Augusta, Georgia, where he was a member of Trinity C.M.E Church, and attended P. H. Craig Elementary School and Haines Normal Industrial Institute (NII); and

WHEREAS, A star athlete and member of Haines NII Class of 1947, John E. Davis was the quarterback on the Football team, a guard on the Basketball team and ran the 100-yard dash on the Track team; and

WHEREAS, John E. Davis and the former Eula Johnson were joined in Holy Matrimony in 1949, and from their union, three children were born; in 1952, this young family moved to Brooklyn, New York, where he became the production manager for Biljoy Creations, a nationwide bridal house; and

WHEREAS, In 1954, John E. Davis joined the Mt. Zion Baptist Church where he served as a Trustee and eventually became Chairperson; in addition, he gave tirelessly of his time and energies to the Youth Department for 25 years, directing the choir and establishing the J. Davis Choral Ensemble; and

WHEREAS, Called to the ministry in 1962 at his aunt's funeral in Jacksonville, Florida, John E. Davis did not answer the call until January 29, 1977, when he became empowered to do His will and preach the unadulterated gospel; and

WHEREAS, Reverend John E. Davis was licensed at the Mt. Zion Baptist Church by Reverend Alvin Barnett, and preached his first sermon on June 3, 1977; and

WHEREAS, On December 12, 1979, Reverend John E. Davis joined the Brooklyn Baptist Evangelical Union where he served as financial and recording secretary; during this time, he also attended the Eastern Baptist School of Religion for two years; and

WHEREAS, With a steadfast and unwavering commitment to his community, Reverend John E. Davis has provided vital Christian services as a member of the South-East Queens Clergy For Community Empowerment (SQCCE), and as past president of the Baptist Ministers of Queens and Vicinity; and

WHEREAS, In 1991, Reverend John E. Davis was called to Pastor the Greater St. John's Baptist Church, where under his able leadership, many new members have joined the Church, the sick have been healed, new auxiliaries have been organized, Deacons have been ordained, Deaconesses have been set aside, and a Minister has been licensed; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Reverend John E. Davis was instrumental in the church's growth both spiritually and financially; the mortgage was paid off in just two and half years on August 29, 1993, and extensive physical work has been done to expand the building to fit the needs of the growing congregation; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife of 62 years, Eula, and their three children, Valencia, John Jr. and Sharon, as well as six grandchildren, Alia, Alexis, Dana, Danielle, John Harrison and Kylie, and seven great-grandchildren, Dominique, Marissa, Courtney, Alia, Kyle, Austin and Aaron, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his many achievements; and

WHEREAS, Reverend John E. Davis has brought to his ministry an overwhelming spirit of charity and compassion, acting from vision and enlightenment in conducting his administrative and spiritual duties, while always displaying the highest standards of personal and professional integrity and dedication; 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; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body that when a person of such noble aims and accomplishments is brought to our attention it is appropriate to publicly and jubilantly proclaim and commend that individual for the edification of others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Reverend John E. Davis, 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 John E. Davis.