

Assembly Resolution No. 261

BY: M. of A. Otis

CELEBRATING the life and accomplishments of Doris J. Bailey-Reavis, dedicated public servant, distinguished citizen and devoted member of her community

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to citizens of the State of New York whose lifework and civic endeavor served to enhance the quality of life in their communities and the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Doris J. Bailey-Reavis of Port Chester, New York died on Friday, February 5, 2021, at the age of 93; and

WHEREAS, Doris J. Bailey-Reavis was born on May 16, 1927, to Robert Jones in Port Chester; at an early age, she was exposed to social justice issues by NAACP leaders such as Effie Gordon at the Carver Center along with her friends; these teachings would serve as a guide in her volunteer work and remain with her throughout her long and esteemed life; and

WHEREAS, In June of 1945, Doris J. Bailey-Reavis graduated from Port Chester High School and went on to attend Immanuel Lutheran College in Greensboro, North Carolina, where she converted to the Lutheran faith; and

WHEREAS, Doris J. Bailey-Reavis was a hard worker and held various public service positions with the Department of Defense in Washington D.C., the New York Department of Tax and Finance, the Port Chester Public Schools, and Administrative Assistant to the Southern Westchester BOCES Director of Human Resources, the position from which she officially retired in 1990; and

WHEREAS, Doris J. Bailey-Reavis shared her considerable talents and leadership skills with many worthy organizations and causes such as the Port Chester Strategic Planning Committee, the Port Chester Carver Center, the Immanuel Lutheran College Alumni Association, the John F. Kennedy Magnet School, and the Port Chester/Rye NAACP where she served as Secretary, Treasurer and President; and

WHEREAS, For her steadfast and unremitting commitment to her community, Doris J. Bailey-Reavis was the recipient of numerous awards and accolades such as the Council of Community Services of Port Chester for the Extra Mile Award in May 2019 and the Westchester County Legislature African American History Month Award; she was also selected to the Westchester Senior Citizens Hall of Fame, named The Carver Center Black History Month honoree, and was honored for her outstanding work with the Port Chester/Rye NAACP; and

WHEREAS, Even though Doris J. Bailey-Reavis experienced great sorrow with the death of her daughter, Alethia Joy, and her husband, John W.

Reavis, Jr., she truly lived a long and full life helping others; up until her final days, she continued her life's mission of ensuring social justice for all; shortly before her death, she submitted an opinion newspaper column to the local **Westmore News** and spoke at the monthly meeting of the Port Chester Rye NAACP; and

WHEREAS, A trailblazer and tireless supporter of the African American community in Port Chester, Doris J. Bailey-Reavis will always be remembered for her efforts in securing positions for African American teachers in the schools, urging minority participation on the Port Chester Complete Count Committee for the 2020 Census and serving on the state-mandated committee to review police policies and procedures; and

WHEREAS, Through her many benevolent good deeds, this compassionate and strong woman truly made the Village of Port Chester, the Town of Rye and New York State as a whole, a more caring, just and equitable place for its residents to live, work and play; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Doris J. Bailey-Reavis leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all she served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to celebrate the life and accomplishments of Doris J. Bailey-Reavis, dedicated public servant, distinguished citizen and devoted member of her community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Doris J. Bailey-Reavis.