

Assembly Resolution No. 2242

BY: M. of A. Lee

HONORING Don B. Lee posthumously for his
contributions to the Asian American 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, Don B. Lee was born in Hong Kong in 1959 and immigrated to New York City at the age of 10 years old, growing up in Manhattan's Chinatown; he attended P.S. 130 and Seward Park High School; and

WHEREAS, Working at Hop Lee restaurant in Chinatown to support himself, Don B. Lee earned his degree from New York University; aspiring to become a public servant for New York City, he started his professional career working under four different mayoral administrations, where he automated operations for the Mayor's office, created a new management system for the Fulton Fish Market, and vastly increased small and medium business access to city contracts through automating a Bid-Match Program for the Department of Business Services; and

WHEREAS, Shifting his focus to healthcare, Don B. Lee served as Chief Information Officer for the South Manhattan Healthcare Network; he transformed the IT systems of Bellevue Hospital Center and other significant institutions in the community network, improved service to thousands of users across facilities, and also aided the Coalition of Asian American IPA, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Truly devoted to his community and never forgetting his roots, Don B. Lee had a passion for community activism; throughout his life, he advocated for the dignity and rights of Asian Americans and called for wider scales of justice; he served on his local community board, then rose to the occasion to protest for transportation access for Asian American community during the Grand Street Subway closure in 1995; and

WHEREAS, After the tragedy of September 11, 2001, Don B. Lee raised support for Chinatown businesses and served as a liaison in connecting local businesses with FEMA; and

WHEREAS, Exemplifying his love for Asian American representation and Chinese cooking, a significant victory of Don B. Lee's advocacy was changing the law to support Chinatown street vendors to receive licenses and fight against unfair treatment; and

WHEREAS, Delving into research about the diets of Chinese Transcontinental Railroad workers, Don B. Lee presented cooking demonstrations at Railroad commemorations around the country; and

WHEREAS, Tirelessly supporting his community through the Covid-19 Pandemic, Don B. Lee worked to ensure hate crimes against Asian Americans were named and prosecuted accordingly; and

WHEREAS, Under his able leadership, Homecrest Community Services, a non-profit organization, serves immigrant seniors and their families in South Brooklyn; he carried the role as the organization's Board Chair for over 20 years; and

WHEREAS, Don B. Lee's reach in helping the community is remarkable and he worked endlessly to provide services and advocate for the rights of the disadvantaged communities, from setting up health fairs, to leading rallies, to delivering hot meals to members during the Covid-19 Pandemic; and

WHEREAS, His work impacting countless families and individuals, Homecrest Community Services established three centers that covered a wide area of South Brooklyn; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Lai, and his daughter, Victoria, both of whom have felt privileged to have been a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such outstanding accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Don B. Lee posthumously for his contributions to the Asian American community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Don B. Lee.