

Assembly Resolution No. 2398

BY: M. of A. Peoples-Stokes

MOURNING the death of Stephanie Ann Barber Geter,
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 this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Stephanie Ann Barber Geter, of Buffalo, New York, died on Thursday, January 11, 2024, at the age of 69; and

WHEREAS, On June 21, 1954, Stephanie Ann Barber Geter was born to Carl Kelley and Hazel Lee Barber in Buffalo, New York; and

WHEREAS, On Buffalo's East Side, Stephanie Ann Barber Geter was raised by her grandmother who encouraged her to get involved in her housing project's tenant council at the age of 12; as a teenager, she became involved in political campaigns and participated in the student council in high school and the Ellicott District Neighborhood Council in college; and

WHEREAS, Stephanie Ann Barber Geter was a proud product of the Buffalo Public School system, attending Clinton Junior High School and Annunciation High School where she graduated in 1972; and

WHEREAS, From the State University of New York at Buffalo, Stephanie Ann Barber Geter received both her Bachelor of Science and Master of Urban Planning degrees; she was employed by the Research Foundation at Buffalo State University; and

WHEREAS, For the next 37 years, Stephanie Ann Barber Geter committed herself to bettering Western New York through her work in government and local non-profit organizations; she has served on the Boards of Directors of FeedMore WNY, Elim Community Corporation, and the Masten TRIAD Housing Association; she also directed the Head Start Partnership at SUNY Buffalo State College; and

WHEREAS, As Research Associate, Stephanie Ann Barber Geter was responsible for managing and implementing applied grant projects in Continuing Professional Studies, managing several grant projects for nontraditional students, and serving as Community Liaison for Continuing Profession Studies; and

WHEREAS, Stephanie Ann Barber Geter distinguished herself in her profession by her sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of her community; she had been involved in volunteer work which included serving as President of the Hamlin Park Community & Taxpayers Association for many years; and

WHEREAS, For more than 20 years, as Senior Vice President of Community Initiative for United Way of Buffalo & Erie County, Stephanie Ann Barber Geter distributed approximately \$25 million to agency providers and community groups annually; while acting as Board Chair of Restore Our Community Coalition (ROCC), she was instrumental in obtaining a \$55 million federal grant for the Kensington Expressway project; and

WHEREAS, Stephanie Ann Barber Geter received the Medgar Evers Award from the Buffalo branch of the NAACP; she also received commendations from state and local officials; her steadfast work for the East Side of Buffalo yielded a better community for her neighbors for whom she tirelessly labored to effect positive change; and

WHEREAS, To Western New York's expansive community, Stephanie Ann Barber Geter will be remembered as a champion, true public servant, community leader, and pillar of the City of Buffalo; she remained active in her projects even after her retirement in the fall of 2020; and

WHEREAS, Stephanie Ann Barber Geter's faith was the cornerstone of her life, and she was a faithful member of Elim Christian Fellowship, serving as Chairwoman of the Board for Elim Community Corporation; her faith was not only a belief but also a way of life which she exemplified and shared with others; and

WHEREAS, The life, love, resilience, service, and dedication of this caring, compassionate, and purposeful woman constitute Stephanie Ann Barber Geter's legacy which will continue to inspire those individuals who knew her; she has completed her assignment, and her memory will forever be etched in the hearts of her family, friends, colleagues, and fellow members of the Buffalo community; and

WHEREAS, Stephanie Ann Barber Geter is survived by her husband, Edwin R. Geter; stepdaughter, Ariel L. Geter; brothers, Rickie (Debra) Barber, Joe Barber, and Cecil Barber; sister, Marshell "Peaches" Joyner; sister-in-law, Debra (Sullivan) Nelson; nephews, Marlon Joyner, Brian Dubenion, Rickie Lee Barber, and John (Lakisha) Kelley, Jr.; niece, Renaya (Gabriel) Rivera; and numerous cousins, other relatives, and special friends; she was preceded in death by her grandmother, Emassie Barber; father, Carl Kelley; mother, Hazel Lee Barber Joyner; uncles, Joe Louis (Patricia) Barber, Calvin (Edna) Barber, and William (Rozella) Barber; aunt, Sadie Barber; and sisters, Betty Barber and Grace Kelley; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Stephanie Ann Barber Geter 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 mourn the death of Stephanie Ann Barber Geter, 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 Stephanie Ann Barber Geter.