

Assembly Resolution No. 385

BY: M. of A. Gibbs

CELEBRATING the life of Alton Henry Maddox Jr.,
civil rights champion, distinguished citizen, and
devoted member of his community

WHEREAS, There are certain outstanding members of our community who, through their selfless commitment and dedication, have served to better the quality of life in our community and have had a measurable positive impact on the lives of its residents; Alton Henry Maddox Jr. was one such individual; and

WHEREAS, It is with profound sorrow and deep regret that this Legislative Body records the passing of Alton Henry Maddox Jr., noting the significance of his purposeful life and accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Alton Henry Maddox Jr., a New York defense lawyer who rose to prominence amid some of the most racially charged cases of the 1980s, died on April 23, 2023, in the Bronx; he was 77 years old; and

WHEREAS, Born on July 21, 1945, in Inkster, Michigan, Alton Henry Maddox Jr. grew up on Newnan, Georgia; he graduated from Howard University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1967, before earning his Juris Doctorate from Boston College Law School in 1971; and

WHEREAS, In 1973, Alton Henry Maddox Jr. worked at Harlem Legal Services and later led the juvenile justice project of the National Conference of Black Lawyers; he went on to start his own practice and was involved in a variety of civil rights cases, cementing himself as a civil rights advocate; and

WHEREAS, A legal genius who used his legal knowledge as a shield, Alton Henry Maddox Jr. spent his life fighting on behalf of marginalized people of color; and

WHEREAS, With a steadfast and unwavering commitment to his profession, Alton Henry Maddox Jr. was Director of the National Conference of Black Lawyers Juvenile Defense Project; he was also the founder of the Center for Law and Social Justice at Medgar Evers College and co-sponsored the 1983 Congressional hearings on Police Brutality in New York City; and

WHEREAS, In addition, he often contributed to publications such as Amsterdam News, and was a frequent guest on WLIB radio's Sharp Talk program; he also gave many notable speeches at several colleges and rallies; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his wife, Leola Weaver, Alton Henry Maddox Jr. is survived by his son, Charles; and

WHEREAS, Alton Henry Maddox Jr.'s fight for justice and fairness leaves behind a powerful legacy that will continue to inspire people

across our state and nation for generations to come; his insight and strength will forever serve as a beacon of love, light and hope to the countless lives he touched; he will be deeply missed and truly merits the grateful tribute of this Legislative Body; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to celebrate the life of Alton Henry Maddox Jr., and to express its deepest condolences to his family; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Alton Henry Maddox Jr.