

**BY:** M. of A. Walker

**CELEBRATING** the life of Tina Turner, legendary performer and musical icon hailed as the Queen of Rock and Roll

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor and pay tribute to those musical geniuses whose commitment and creative talents have contributed to the entertainment and cultural enrichment of their community, the State of New York, the Nation and the world; and

**WHEREAS,** It is with profound sorrow and deep regret that this Legislative Body records the passing of Tina Turner, noting the significance of her inspired life and accomplishments; and

**WHEREAS,** Tina Turner, the dynamic rock and soul singer who rose from humble beginnings and overcame much adversity to become one of the most popular artists of all time, died on Wednesday, May 24, 2023, at the age of 83; and

**WHEREAS,** Tina Turner was born Anna Mae Bullock on November 26, 1939, into a sharecropping family in rural Tennessee; she began singing as a teenager and, after moving to St. Louis, Missouri, immersed herself in the local rhythm-and-blues scene; and

**WHEREAS,** She met Ike Turner at a performance by his band, the Kings of Rhythm, in 1956, and soon became part of the act; she began performing as Tina Turner, and her electric stage presence quickly made her the centerpiece of the show; and

**WHEREAS,** The ensemble, which toured as the Ike and Tina Turner Revue, was renowned for its live performances, and in 1960, "A Fool in Love" hit the pop charts; a string of hit singles followed, including "Nutbush City Limits" and "Proud Mary," their 1971 cover of a Creedence Clearwater Revival song, which reached No. 4 on the pop charts and won them a Grammy; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1976, the Ike and Tina Turner Revue performed as the headliner at the Waldorf Astoria New York, before signing a television deal with CBS for their own show; and

**WHEREAS,** Ike and Tina Turner, who were married in 1962, found great success during these New York shows, but offstage their marriage was tumultuous and the couple divorced in 1978; and

**WHEREAS,** In the era of rebuilding her career, Tina Turner began playing in smaller venues, including The Ritz-Carlton New York; in October of 1981, Rod Stewart attended one of her shows at the venue, and after seeing her performance, asked her to join him on "Saturday Night Live" for a televised performance of "Hot Legs"; and

**WHEREAS,** After a series of guest appearances on the albums of other

artists, Tina Turner mounted a stunning comeback in 1984 when she released her debut solo multiplatinum album, "Private Dancer"; it was a triumph, both critically and commercially, selling more than 20 million copies worldwide and winning three Grammy Awards, including record of the year and best female vocal performance for "What's Love Got to Do with It," the single which became her signature song; and

**WHEREAS,** Before long, Tina Turner became a global superstar, commanding MTV with her spiky wigs, short skirts, and famously long legs; and

**WHEREAS,** Tina Turner followed her musical success with a role in the film "Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome" (1985); her later albums included "Break Every Rule" (1986), "Foreign Affair" (1989), and "Wildest Dreams" (1996); her greatest-hits compilation "All the Best," was released in 2004; and

**WHEREAS,** A riveting live performer, this extraordinary woman continued touring into the 21st century and appeared on other artists' albums, notably Herbie Hancock's "River: The Joni Letters" (2007), a Grammy-winning tribute to Joni Mitchell; and

**WHEREAS,** Furthermore, she wrote the autobiographies **I, Tina**, which was written in 1986 and adapted in 1993 as the film "What's Love Got to Do with It," and **My Love Story** (2018), as well as the self-help book, **Happiness Becomes You: A Guide to Changing Your Life for Good** (2020); and

**WHEREAS,** Ike and Tina Turner were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1991; 30 years later, in 2021, she was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as a solo performer; and

**WHEREAS,** In addition to receiving a Kennedy Center Honor (2005), Tina Turner earned a Grammy Award for lifetime achievement in 2018; that same year, "Tina," a jukebox musical based on her life, opened in London's West End; the musical debuted on Broadway in 2019, and is currently on tour nationwide; and

**WHEREAS,** Tina Turner and the love of her life, Erwin Bach, were united in marriage in 2013, after 27 years together; and

**WHEREAS,** Tina Turner's undeniable talent earned her acclaim as the Queen of Rock and Roll, while her resiliency made her a hero to women everywhere; when she sang of pain and heartache in her husky, raspy voice, every word rang true; and

**WHEREAS,** A raw, powerful, and truly unstoppable woman, Tina Turner was unapologetically herself, speaking and singing her truth through joy and pain, triumph, and tragedy; through her music and her boundless passion for life, she enchanted millions of fans around the world and will forever remain a star whose light will never fade; and

**WHEREAS,** Tina Turner was nothing less than a giant; her dedication to her music leaves an indelible legacy of inspiration which will long

endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to her family, friends and countless fans; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to celebrate the life of Tina Turner, and to express its deepest condolences to her family; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Tina Turner.