

BY: Senator PARKER

COMMENDING the Dan Washington, Jr., Memorial Basketball Tournament upon the occasion of its annual competition on June 4, 2026

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those events and occasions whose commitment to the dignity, inclusion, and celebration of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities reflects the highest ideals of civic life in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the Dan Washington, Jr., Memorial Basketball Tournament upon the occasion of its annual competition on Thursday, June 4, 2026; and

WHEREAS, The Dan Washington, Jr., Memorial Basketball Tournament is named in loving honor of Dan Washington, Jr., a cherished participant in programs serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities whose spirit, enthusiasm, and presence left a lasting mark on all who knew him; in naming this tournament in his memory, this community affirms that the lives of those it serves are not incidental to its mission, but are the very heart of it, and that their joy, their legacy, and their capacity for greatness are worthy of celebration and remembrance; and

WHEREAS, The Tournament brings together participants with intellectual and developmental disabilities for a day of competitive basketball, cheerleading, and skills showcases, providing the men and women who participate the opportunity to do what every athlete wants: to compete, to be cheered, to feel the thrill of the game, and to be surrounded by a community that believes in their abilities and celebrates their achievements without reservation; and

WHEREAS, Events, such as this tournament, embody a fundamental truth that this Legislative Body affirms without hesitation: that inclusion is not charity; that the participation of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the full life of their communities is not a gift to be bestowed but a right to be upheld; and that every person deserves access to the joy, the competition, and the community that athletics can provide; and

WHEREAS, Dan Washington, Jr.'s memory lives on in every participant who takes the court, every cheer that fills the gym, and every moment of athletic joy that this tournament makes possible - proof that a life well-lived in community leaves a legacy that competition, fellowship, and love can sustain long after one is gone; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proudly moved to honor the memory of Dan Washington, Jr., the participants of this tournament, and all who make this annual celebration of athletic excellence and human dignity

possible; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Dan Washington, Jr., Memorial Basketball Tournament on June 4, 2026, and to extend congratulations to all participants, coaches, volunteers, and supporters who make this tournament a celebration worthy of Dan Washington, Jr.'s memory; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the organizers, participants, and supporters of the Dan Washington, Jr., Memorial Basketball Tournament in recognition of their commitment to honoring his legacy through the power of sport, community, and the full inclusion of every athlete who takes the court.