Senate Resolution No. 545

BY: Senator MYRIE

HONORING Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, posthumously upon the occasion of the co-naming of Presidents Street in Brooklyn, New York, in recognition of his remarkable life

WHEREAS, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, was a towering figure in 20th-century Jewish life and one of the most influential Jewish leaders in modern history; and

WHEREAS, Born in 1902, Menachem M. Schneerson became the seventh Rebbe of the Chabad-Lubavitch movement, succeeding his father-in-law, Rabbi Yosef Yitzchak Schneersohn, in 1950; under his leadership, Chabad-Lubavitch transformed from a relatively small Hasidic group into a global movement with institutions and followers across the world; and

WHEREAS, The Rebbe's vision was characterized by a deep commitment to Jewish education, outreach, and the spiritual renewal of Jewish communities worldwide; he advocated for "Ahavat Yisrael" (love of all Jews), and tirelessly worked to strengthen Jewish identity and observance, focusing on the importance of every individual's role in the greater Jewish mission; and

WHEREAS, Through his teachings, the Rebbe emphasized the relevance of Torah to contemporary life, and he applied deep scholarship to practical action, inspiring thousands of followers to spread Jewish awareness and practice; and

WHEREAS, The Rebbe's leadership was not confined to his immediate followers; his wisdom, derived from the teachings of Chabad philosophy and his own insights, resonated with people across diverse Jewish denominations and also non-Jews; he often advocated for building bridges between all communities and emphasized the importance of moral values in a troubled world; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Schneerson's passing in 1994 left a profound void in the Jewish world, but his legacy lives on; his teachings continue to guide the Chabad movement and countless individuals, and his emphasis on unity, education, and action remains as relevant as ever; and

WHEREAS, The Lubavitcher Rebbe's life and work were not just about religious observance but about inspiring a movement toward greater spiritual awareness, social responsibility, and unity within the Jewish people; and

WHEREAS, The unveiling of the "Lubavitcher Rebbe Way" sign on April 6, 2025 in Brooklyn is a momentous occasion that honors the lasting legacy of Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, the Lubavitcher Rebbe; and

WHEREAS, The Rebbe's life was a beacon of kindness, love, and dedication to others, values that continue to inspire people worldwide; by co-naming President Street, the street where the Rebbe lived with his wife, the city is not only recognizing his immense influence but also promoting a core message of his leadership: the power of routine acts of kindness; and

WHEREAS, The theme of the event-Routine Acts of Kindness-is a perfect reflection of the Rebbe's teachings; throughout his life, the Rebbe emphasized that every small, everyday act of goodness and care has the potential to elevate the world and bring us closer to a more compassionate society; whether it was through offering a smile to a stranger, helping a neighbor, or simply showing respect and love for all people, the Rebbe demonstrated that even the smallest gestures could have a profound impact; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, the Rebbe's approach was rooted in the belief that kindness should be part of our daily lives, not just reserved for special occasions; his message encouraged everyone, regardless of their background or circumstances, to engage in acts of kindness-whether through charity, offering a kind word, or simply being considerate of others' needs; it was these routine acts, he believed, that would slowly but surely bring about a transformation in the world; and

WHEREAS, As the "Lubavitcher Rebbe Way" sign is unveiled, it serves as a reminder that each person has the power to make the world a better place; and

WHEREAS, Just as the Rebbe made kindness a cornerstone of his life, we can all take inspiration from his example and incorporate small, meaningful acts of goodness into our own routines; by doing so, we not only honor the Rebbe's memory but also contribute to the ongoing effort to build a more compassionate, loving world; and

WHEREAS, This event will not just celebrate a name change but will inspire the Brooklyn community and beyond to adopt the Rebbe's message of kindness, ensuring that his influence continues to shine brightly in our daily lives; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, posthumously upon the occasion of the renaming of Presidents Street in Brooklyn, New York, in recognition of his remarkable life; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Lubavitch communitiy in Crown Heights.