

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Marjorie Bayne Quinones posthumously upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition after many years of dedicated service to the Yoruba faith

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Marjorie Bayne Quinones posthumously upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition after many years of dedicated service to the Yoruba faith; and

WHEREAS, Born in Harlem to George and Matilda Wilkerson Bayne, Marjorie Quinones met Jose Quinones in 1956 and they married five years later; she and her husband had four children, David, twins, Karen and Kathleen, and Joseph; and

WHEREAS, Though she attended Catholic parochial schools most of her life, Marjorie Quinones later decided to begin a spiritual search for a different faith; a good friend, Edward James, told her that he was studying an African religion called Lucumi or Yoruba in 1958, and invited her to a religious festival that was held in the Bronx; she learned that Lucumi originated in the Southeastern region of Nigeria, and the Nigerians who were enslaved and brought to Cuba continued to practice the religion under the guise of Christianity, calling it Sante-ria; and

WHEREAS, Remembering stories from her childhood that her maternal great-great-grandfather was a priest from Nigeria, Marjorie Quinones did some investigating and discovered he was a Yoruba priest of Sango; in 1963 Marjorie was initiated by a Cuban priestess as a priest of Sango in the Bronx, New York City, New York, and was given the name Sango Gunmi; the year 2013 marks the 50th Anniversary of the Marjorie Bayne Quinones' initiation; and

WHEREAS, Becoming the first African-American to be initiated as a Yoruba priest in the United States, Marjorie Quinones was the progenitor of Ile Ase, the largest and oldest African-American house in the country; she has been included in various books written about the Yoruba religion in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Marjorie Quinones 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 commend Marjorie Bayne Quinones posthumously upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition after many years of dedicated service to the Yoruba faith; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Marjorie Bayne Quinones.