

BY: Senator KENNEDY

HONORING Rashied McDuffie upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Medgar Evers Civil Rights Award by the Buffalo Branch NAACP

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the quality of life in their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to the maintenance of high standards in their profession, certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Rashied McDuffie upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Medgar Evers Civil Rights Award by the NAACP, to be celebrated on Saturday, June 9, 2018; and

WHEREAS, As an Assistant Corporation Counsel with the City of Buffalo Department of Law, Rashied McDuffie defends the City in complex and challenging city and state actions; and

WHEREAS, Rashied McDuffie began his illustrious career in government as a Legislative Assistant and then Chief of Staff to a city council member; his tireless efforts in these positions resulted in substantial investments for various capital projects in Western New York, such as the Frank E. Merriweather Library; and

WHEREAS, In June of 2005, Rashied McDuffie left his Chief of Staff position to attend the University of Miami School of Law; and

WHEREAS, While earning his law degree, this extraordinary man maintained full-time employment and held leadership roles in several campus organizations, including the Black Law Students Association and Student Government; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his leadership roles, Rashied McDuffie presented numerous CLE trainings for local attorneys and nonprofits and was subsequently named a Public Fellow by the University of Miami School of Law; and

WHEREAS, Rashied McDuffie worked on Hillary Clinton's Presidential Campaign, during which time he organized events with both Hillary and Bill Clinton, and served as an advisor on urban and faith-based policy matters; he also worked as the Deputy Finance Associate to Florida Congressman Ron Klein; and

WHEREAS, After completing his time in campaigns, Rashied McDuffie utilized his talents to serve as Executive Director to the New York State Senate Committee on Environmental Conservation, and as a state environmental law advisor to the Senate Majority Whip; and

WHEREAS, Rashied McDuffie then served as District Director to a member of the House of Representatives in Houston, Texas, before coming back to Buffalo to hold his current position; and

WHEREAS, A true asset to his profession, Rashied McDuffie serves as President of the Minority Bar Association and is a member of the New York State and State of Florida Bar Associations; and

WHEREAS, Rashied McDuffie is also a member of the Erie County Charter Revision Commission, the Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor Commission, and the Community Health Center of Buffalo Executive Board; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Rashied McDuffie has displayed throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, It has always been the objective of this Legislative Body to honor and support those individuals who have displayed their commitment to the betterment of their communities, and it is the intent of this Legislative Body to inscribe upon its records, this tribute to Rashied McDuffie, that future generations may know and appreciate his admirable character, his many benevolent deeds, and the respect and esteem in which he is held by his peers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Rashied McDuffie upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Medgar Evers Civil Rights Award by the Buffalo Branch NAACP; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Rashied McDuffie.