

BY: Senator KAPLAN

MOURNING the death of Felix A. Brow-Westbrook, a distinguished citizen and devoted member of the vibrant art and culture of New York City

WHEREAS, It is with profound sorrow that this Legislative Body, representing the people of the State of New York, is moved this day to pay tribute to an eminent man of indomitable faith and dedication whose countless accomplishments will forever stand as a paradigm and inspiration for others; and

WHEREAS, Felix A. Brow-Westbrook of Astoria, New York, died on Wednesday, December 12, 2018, at the age of 29; and

WHEREAS, Felix Alexander Brow-Westbrook was born on September 26, 1989, in Nashua, New Hampshire to young, energetic parents who swept him into their fun-loving lives; he joined his parents in everything they did from outdoor music festivals to vintage clothes shopping and skateboarding; and

WHEREAS, At only two weeks old, he began coming to his mother's ballet rehearsals at Granite State Ballet, and was backstage for her Nutcracker performances at 10 weeks old; the music of Tchaikovsky resonated with him for his entire life; and

WHEREAS, In 1991, Felix A. Brow-Westbrook accompanied his parents to Purchase College where he made an impression on everyone he met; students, faculty, and staff wrote down his words of wisdom and cherished the art he created; and

WHEREAS, Six years later, Felix A. Brow-Westbrook moved to Concord, Massachusetts with his mother who opened a pottery studio, Thoreau 'N' Clay, that same year; he was an important part of running the studio, even at just eight years old; and

WHEREAS, During this time, Felix A. Brow-Westbrook blossomed artistically and in life; he fell in love with art, architecture, and history; he became an avid reader and thinker, and made some of the strongest and most enduring friendships; and

WHEREAS, Felix A. Brow-Westbrook was active with the home schooling community from 6th grade through high school graduation, allowing him to learn with a depth and breadth not afforded to many young people; and

WHEREAS, Expanding his study of architecture through classes at Concord-Carlisle High School, MIT, Minuteman Tech, Museum of Science, Boston Architectural College and Pratt Institute, Felix A. Brow-Westbrook found his way back to Purchase College to study scenic design, receiving his degree in Design Technology, Scenic Concentration in 2011; and

WHEREAS, Upon the completion of his studies, Felix A. Brow-Westbrook worked as a freelance designer creating scenery and props for dramatic productions; his most notable work during this time was working at the Spoleto Festival in Charleston, South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Felix A. Brow-Westbrook was also an accomplished designer for window displays, creating windows for Ralph Lauren, Club Monaco and Tory Burch in their top stores internationally; and

WHEREAS, This extraordinary young man truly lived and breathed art; there was no separation between the two; he continued to create throughout his hard-fought battle with cancer, creating fashion from hospital gowns at New York Presbyterian Hospital where he put on fashion shows for his nurses; and

WHEREAS, In addition, during this time he created headpieces for a production of Peter Pan at Bard College; and

WHEREAS, Felix A. Brow-Westbrook had an immeasurable love and unique bond with his siblings Frank, Rebekah, Lillian, Jack and Luke, as well as his Uncle David; he is also survived by his mother, Elizabeth; stepfather, Frank; father, Jeffrey; stepmother, Kristin; grandparents, David and Jill Brow, and Ben and Garnette Westbrook; one aunt, Sarah (Marc); close friends, Walter Holm and Eli Denby Wood; and many cousins; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Felix A. Brow-Westbrook leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all he served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Felix A. Brow-Westbrook, a distinguished citizen and devoted member of the vibrant art and culture of New York City; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Felix A. Brow-Westbrook.