

BY: Senator STEWART-COUSINS

CELEBRATING the life and legacy of revered United States Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a tireless and resolute champion of justice and leading litigator for women's rights

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body, representing the people of the State of New York, is moved this day to pay tribute to an eminent woman of indomitable faith and dedication whose public service and countless accomplishments will forever stand as a paradigm and inspiration for others; and

WHEREAS, It is with profound sorrow and deep regret that this Legislative Body records the passing of The Honorable Ruth Bader Ginsburg, noting the significance of her purposeful life and triumphs; and

WHEREAS, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a legal pioneer for gender equality who became the second woman ever to serve on the nation's highest court, died on Friday, September 18, 2020, at the age of 87; she will become the first woman and the first Jewish person to lie in state at the Capitol building in Washington, D.C., and will then join 13 other Supreme Court justices buried in America's most hallowed resting place, Arlington National Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, Born to Nathan and Celia (Amster) Bader on March 15, 1933, in Brooklyn, New York, Ruth Bader grew up in the Flatbush neighborhood essentially as an only child; her older sister died of meningitis at the age of six when Ruth was just 14 months old; and

WHEREAS, Ruth Bader earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Cornell University where she met her husband, Martin David Ginsburg, whom she married in 1954; she became a mother before starting law school at Harvard University, eventually transferring to Columbia Law School and graduating joint first in her class; and

WHEREAS, Upon the completion of her studies, Ruth Bader Ginsburg entered academia, serving as a Professor at Rutgers Law School and Columbia Law School teaching civil procedure as one of the few women in her field; and

WHEREAS, Ruth Bader Ginsburg spent much of her illustrious legal career, which traversed more than four decades, as a staunch advocate for gender equality and women's rights, winning many arguments before the Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, This extraordinary woman was instrumental in launching the Women's Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), where she served as General Counsel from 1973-1980, and on its National Board of Directors from 1974-1980; and

WHEREAS, In 1980, President Jimmy Carter appointed her to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, where she served until her appointment to the Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, Nominated in June of 1993 by President Bill Clinton, Ruth Bader Ginsburg began her tenure as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States on the first Monday of October 1993, taking a seat behind the same bench she had previously stood before, arguing cases which went on to become legal landmarks; and

WHEREAS, Ruth Bader Ginsburg's preeminent goal to persuade the Supreme Court that the 14th Amendment's guarantee of equal protection applied not only to racial discrimination but to sexual discrimination as well, became a reality and a moment of personal triumph when nearly 20 years after making her last argument before the Supreme Court, she announced the court's majority opinion in a 1996 discrimination case involving the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington; by a lopsided seven to one, the court found the all-male admissions policy of a state-supported military college was unconstitutional; and

WHEREAS, Later in her career, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg received attention in American popular culture for her passionate dissents, switching the decorative collars she wore with her judicial robe on the days when she would be announcing a dissent; she took great care with her opinions, which were tightly composed with straightforward declarative sentences and a minimum of jargon; and

WHEREAS, Playfully and notably dubbed the Notorious R.B.G., a reference to the late Brooklyn-born rapper the Notorious B.I.G., Ruth Bader Ginsburg's image, her expression serene yet severe, a frilly lace collar adorning her black judicial robe, her eyes framed by oversize glasses and a gold crown perched at an angle on her head, became an internet sensation; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, while on the Court, Ruth Bader Ginsburg authored **My Own Words**, a compilation of her speeches and writings; and

WHEREAS, Today, more than ever, women starved for models of female influence, authenticity, dignity and voice will continue to hold up this powerhouse octogenarian justice as the embodiment of hope for an empowered future; and

WHEREAS, In addition to her sister, Ruth Bader Ginsburg was predeceased by her beloved husband in 2010; she is survived by her two children, Jane Carol Ginsburg (George Spera) and James Steven Ginsburg (Patrice Michaels); four grandchildren, Paul Spera (Francesca Toich), Clara Spera (Rory Boyd), Miranda Ginsburg and Abigail Ginsburg; two step-grandchildren, Harjinder Bedi and Satinder Bedi; and one great-grandchild, Lucrezia Spera; and

WHEREAS, Through her profound words of wisdom as both a litigator and strategist, Ruth Bader Ginsburg's judicial legacy will shine on through the countless lives she touched; her insight, bravery and strength will forever serve as a beacon of love and hope for her family,

friends, and all who were privileged to have known and loved such an amazing woman; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to celebrate the life and legacy of revered United States Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and expressing its deepest condolences to her family; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of The Honorable Ruth Bader Ginsburg.