

Senate Resolution No. 1800

BY: Senator CLEARE

HONORING Leon Bogues posthumously for special recognition in observance of Black History Month

WHEREAS, It is with profound intent that this Legislative Body is moved to pay homage to a man of indomitable faith and dedication whose purposeful life and accomplishments will forever stand as a paradigm and inspiration for others; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to give acclaim to individuals of great character whose lives exemplify the highest ideals of humanity; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Leon Bogues posthumously for special recognition in observance of Black History Month; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month is a time to reflect on the struggles and victories of African Americans throughout our country's history and to recognize their numerous valuable contributions to the protection of our democratic society in times of war and in peace; and

WHEREAS, New York State Senator Leon Bogues represented the 29th District in Harlem and the Upper West Side from 1980 until his death on August 6, 1985, at the age of 58; and

WHEREAS, During his illustrious tenure in the Legislature, Leon Bogues was a ranking member of the Investigations, Taxation and Government Operations Committee; he also served on the Elections Committee, the Codes Committee and the Crime and Corrections Committee; and

WHEREAS, Leon Bogues' last piece of legislation, a bill to standardize voter registration in the state for which he was a co-author, was signed into law by Governor Mario Cuomo just two weeks before his death; and

WHEREAS, A tireless negotiator and a truly selfless man, Leon Bogues' election to the Senate came a year after he presided as chairman of his local community board over a compromise on the West Side Urban Renewal Plan which allowed for both subsidized and unsubsidized housing; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, he was one of the first of a group of community-board activists in the city to make the transition to elected office; and

WHEREAS, Born in Harlem, Leon Bogues was educated in New York City schools and attended Howard University in Washington as well as Long Island University, where he received his bachelor's degree; and

WHEREAS, Leon Bogues was appointed to the community board in 1970 and became the board's chairman in 1978; and

WHEREAS, Prior to his election to the New York State Legislature, Leon Bogues worked as a senior probation officer for the State Supreme Court in Manhattan and the Bronx; and

WHEREAS, Leon Bogues was a loving husband to his wife, Dorothy, and a devoted father to his two children, Norma and Leon Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Our society is greatly benefited by the purposeful efforts of individuals who unite for the cause of improving the quality of life for others, and who proactively work toward the goal of dignity for all; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, it is appropriate to publicly proclaim and commend those individuals for the edification and emulation of others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Leon Bogues posthumously for special recognition in observance of Black History Month; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Leon Bogues.