

BY: Senator PARKER

MOURNING the death of Marie Andree Bichotte,
loving mother, proud grandmother, distinguished
citizen and devoted member of her community

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to citizens of the State of New York whose lifework and civic endeavor served to enhance the quality of life in their communities and this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Marie Andree Bichotte of Brooklyn, New York, died on Friday, March 19, 2021, at the age of 82; and

WHEREAS, Andree, as she was affectionately known, was born on November 17, 1938, to Therese Luc and Seraphin Dessources in Croix-des-Bouquets, Haiti; she was the youngest of 26 siblings; and

WHEREAS, She attended Notre Dame du Rosaire School, and the Guillaume Manigat School in Port au Prince; after graduation, she returned to Croix-des-Bouquets to work as a seamstress; and she quickly gained fame for her beautiful wedding and funeral attires, as well as the tablecloths and curtains she would sew for the well-known convent on Lalue Street in Port-au-Prince; and

WHEREAS, Later, Andree opened her own boutique where she sold all types of goods; one day, a family friend, Jean Francois, introduced her to Marcel Bichotte, lead saxophonist of the iconic band, Jazz des Jeunes; they were married in 1960 and together they had four children; and

WHEREAS, Marie Andree Bichotte distinguished herself in her profession and by her sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of her community; and

WHEREAS, Marie Andree Bichotte's commitment to excellence, and her spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Andree Bichotte believed the American dream should belong to others as well; despite the challenges of immigration laws, she worked tirelessly to ensure her extended family would also realize their dreams in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Her house was well-known for welcoming anyone who needed a roof, no matter how tenuous, and, in some cases, non-existent, the family links might be; her home was a sanctuary for those fleeing the harsh conditions in the beloved but troubled Haiti homeland, as well as for those seeking respite from the stress of immigrant life; Andree was always very generous with her time, money, and advice; and

WHEREAS, Andree Bichotte devoted her life to God; in the early

2000s, she founded La Nouvelle Naissance, a prayer group with members across the United States; the group, with Andree serving as President, uplifted Haitian people around the world, and gave timely solace to those in need; and

WHEREAS, She was an avid traveler who looked forward to new discoveries as she visited Caribbean islands, European, and South American countries; and

WHEREAS, Andree Bichotte was also an acclaimed chef who took great joy in cooking; her signature dish, macaroni au gratin, was always in demand; no matter what time of the day you came to her home, she would welcome you with a plate of delicious Haitian food; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by her son, Wayne Bichotte, and her stepson, Carmin Bichotte, Marie Andree Bichotte is survived by her children, Wagner Bichotte, Marcelle Bichotte-Dunner, and New York State Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn; one stepdaughter, Gladys Bichotte; three grandchildren, Wagner L. Bichotte Jr., Kye Dunner and Kourtney Dunner; three step-granddaughters, Daphnee Bichotte, Sophia Bichotte-Ligonde, and Ritha Pierre; and her sisters, Lucienne Dessources, Enid Etienne, and Liliane Orelie; as well as countless nieces, nephews, cousins, godchildren, and friends; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Marie Andree Bichotte 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 mourn the death of Marie Andree Bichotte, and to express 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 Marie Andree Bichotte.