Senate Resolution No. 694

BY: Senator SALAZAR

MOURNING the death of Marvin E. Mayfield, Jr., dedicated human rights advocate, distinguished citizen, and devoted member of his community

WHEREAS, There are certain outstanding members of our community who, through their selfless commitment and dedication, have served to better the quality of life in our community and have had a measurable positive impact on the lives of its residents; Marvin E. Mayfield, Jr. was one such individual; and

WHEREAS, It is with profound sorrow and deep regret that this Legislative Body records the passing of Marvin E. Mayfield, Jr., noting the significance of his purposeful life and accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Marvin E. Mayfield, Jr., a loving husband, nurturing father, and doting grandfather, died on Thursday, March 30, 2023, at the age of 61; and

WHEREAS, Marvin E. Mayfield, Jr. was born on December 15, 1961, in Brooklyn, New York, to the late Reverend Marvin E. Mayfield, Sr., and Louise Frances (Moultrie) Mayfield; proud of his Bedford-Stuyvesant beginnings, he attended Edward R. Murrow High School before entering into the United States Air Force; and

WHEREAS, His attendance and graduation from NYU's Prison Education Program inspired him to share his life experiences and hopes for the future; soon, thereafter, Marvin E. Mayfield, Jr. attended the Justice-in-Education Initiative Scholars program of Columbia University; and

WHEREAS, A committed and outspoken advocate for those who have been imprisoned, mistreated and traumatized, Marvin E. Mayfield, Jr.'s personal experiences of criminalization and incarceration drove him to build a movement to change unjust laws and policies; and

WHEREAS, Marvin E. Mayfield, Jr. was a civil and human rights leader, a lover of people, dedicated and steadfast in his advocacy and organizing, and a brilliant and buoyant warrior for freedom and justice; and

WHEREAS, From 2017 to 2019, Marvin E. Mayfield, Jr. helped lead the fight for bail and discovery reform, changing laws in New York State which spared thousands of people the horrors of pretrial incarceration, allowing them to keep their jobs and homes and take care of their children; and

WHEREAS, Beginning in 2020, Marvin E. Mayfield, Jr. served as the Director of Organizing at the Center for Community Alternatives, building power with people across New York State who have been harmed by mass incarceration, criminalization and community disinvestment; there,

he was integral to envisioning and launching bold and innovative campaigns to help end mass incarceration; and

WHEREAS, A freedom fighter who led with his heart, Marvin E. Mayfield,Jr. galvanized people across New York State to end racist and unjust sentencing laws, win respect and opportunities for people with conviction records, support parole justice, and protect bail reform; he did this with a deep and unwavering belief that the world can and will change, and that it is our collective power and the leadership of impacted people and families who will make that change real; anywhere people are fighting for freedom and justice, Marvin's spirit is there; and

WHEREAS, Marvin E. Mayfield, Jr. was an active member and leader at Woods Memorial AME Zion Church in the Bronx, New York; he served as Trustee Board Chairman, local Lay Council President, and honorary member of the Women's Home & Overseas Missionary Society; and

WHEREAS, With a strong work ethic, Marvin E. Mayfield, Jr. was constantly reinventing himself; he became employed at New York Presbyterian Hospital in the Medical Records Unit; at URS Corporation as a marketing consultant; the River Room of Harlem restaurant as a chef, where he prepared cuisines typical of Harlem (Southern, Caribbean, Latin and African); and was an Advocacy Assistant at The David Rothenberg Center for Public Policy at The Fortune Society; and

WHEREAS, A truly multi-talented man, Marvin E. Mayfield, Jr. was a roller-skater, barber, tailor, artist, singer, tech guru, and self-taught musician; he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Work from New York University in 2021; and

WHEREAS, Marvin E. Mayfield, Jr. was the proud recipient of numerous awards and accolades, including Just Leadership USA's Larry Gilbert Award, and the Jo Man's Black Wall Street Award from Black Wall Street Harlem; he also received a public health award from William Paterson University in honor of his dedication and commitment to criminal justice reform; and

WHEREAS, Additionally, the Center for Community Alternatives is starting the Marvin Mayfield Organizing Fellowship in his honor; and

WHEREAS, Marvin E. Mayfield, Jr. was predeceased by his father, the late Reverend Marvin E. Mayfield, Sr.; his sister, Naomi; niece, Jennifer; and sister-in-love, Chyann; he is survived by his wife, the Reverend Edith R. Mayfield, who he loved fiercely, and a family he cherished, including his mother, Louise F. Mayfield; mother-in-love, Dolores Simmons, and fathers-in-loves, David Simmons and Lenwood Hicks; three amazingly gifted young adult sons, Nicholas, Kevin and Timothy; two grandchildren, Nyomi and Naliyah, along with two grandsons expected later this year; two brothers, John and Laurence; sister, Carolyn; two sisters-in-love, Aisha and Sherine; and a host of nieces, nephews, loving aunts and cousins; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Marvin E. Mayfield, Jr. leaves behind a legacy which will

long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all who were privileged to have known and loved such an amazing man; he will be deeply missed and truly merits the grateful tribute of this Legislative Body; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Marvin E. Mayfield, Jr., and to express its deepest condolences to his family; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Marvin E. Mayfield, Jr.