

**BY:** Senator HARCKHAM

**MOURNING** the death of Sergeant Nigel Keith Barnett, Jr., devoted father, distinguished law enforcement leader, and courageous public servant

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor the lives of exceptional individuals of the State of New York whose service, leadership, and character have left a lasting and meaningful impact upon their families, professions, and communities; and

**WHEREAS,** Sergeant Nigel Keith Barnett, Jr., a dedicated member of the New York State Police and a proud native of Poughkeepsie, New York, died on September 16, 2025, at the age of 49, leaving behind a legacy of honor, service, and devotion; and

**WHEREAS,** Born on November 26, 1975, Sergeant Barnett was the cherished son of Nigel Keith Barnett, Sr. and Esmie (McNeil) Barnett, and was raised with strong values of discipline, perseverance, faith, and commitment to family and community; and

**WHEREAS,** Sergeant Barnett began his academic journey at Our Lady of Lourdes High School in Poughkeepsie, New York, where he distinguished himself as a student-athlete, excelling in football, and later earned his associate's degree from Dutchess Community College in 1999; and

**WHEREAS,** In 2002, he answered the call to public service by beginning his law enforcement career as a correctional officer with the Dutchess County Jail, demonstrating professionalism and dedication that would define his career; and

**WHEREAS,** In 2006, Sergeant Barnett joined the New York State Police, graduating from the New York State Police Academy and receiving his field training in Troop K at SP New Lebanon, before being permanently assigned to Troop K at SP Wappingers; and

**WHEREAS,** With a strong desire to lead and mentor others, he pursued a supervisory role and was promoted to Sergeant in 2020, serving as a Line Sergeant in Troop F at SP Liberty, where his leadership and excellence were widely recognized; and

**WHEREAS,** In 2023, Sergeant Barnett was honored with the Supervisor of the Year Award for Troop F, Zone 3, a testament to his exceptional leadership, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to those under his command; and

**WHEREAS,** In 2024, Sergeant Barnett was promoted to Station Commander of SP Highland in Troop F, and later transferred back to Troop K as Station Commander at SP Cortlandt, where he served with distinction at the time of his passing; and

**WHEREAS,** Sergeant Station Commander Barnett proudly dedicated 19

years of honorable service to the New York State Police, earning the respect, admiration, and friendship of colleagues across the State; and

**WHEREAS,** Beyond his professional accomplishments, Sergeant Barnett was a devoted man of faith and an active member of The Gathering at Faith Assembly in Poughkeepsie, where his spirit, kindness, and commitment to fellowship were deeply valued; and

**WHEREAS,** He embraced life with enthusiasm and joy, enjoying motorcycling, dirt bike riding, hiking, mountain biking, reading, video gaming, and physical fitness, yet his greatest happiness was always found in time spent with his family; and

**WHEREAS,** Sergeant Nigel Keith Barnett, Jr. is survived by his beloved son, Nigel Barnett III; his parents, Nigel Keith Barnett, Sr. and Esmie Barnett; his sisters, Katisha Barnett and Marcia Barnett; his brother-in-law, Ainsley Wheeler; his partner, Kristin Denu, and her daughters, Giavanna and Londyn White; his stepson, Esteban "Pookie" Martinez; his nieces and nephews, including Alasia Wheeler, Annmarie Wheeler, Ainsley Wheeler Jr., Denzel Wheeler, and Zion Moore; his great-nephew and great-niece, Jasaan Wheeler-Ward and Harmony Wheeler; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, extended family members, and friends who will forever cherish his memory; and

**WHEREAS,** Known for his integrity, leadership, warmth, and unwavering devotion to duty, Sergeant Barnett exemplified the highest ideals of law enforcement and public service, touching countless lives through his professionalism, mentorship, and compassion; and

**WHEREAS,** Though his life was tragically cut short, Sergeant Nigel Keith Barnett, Jr. lived with purpose and honor, leaving an enduring legacy of courage, faith, and love that will continue to inspire all who knew him; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Sergeant Nigel Keith Barnett, Jr., and to honor his exemplary life and distinguished service to the State of New York; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Sergeant Nigel Keith Barnett, Jr.