Senate Resolution No. 1918

BY: Senator CLEARE

HONORING the life of Bob Law, pioneering Black radio broadcaster, and his incredible service to Broadcasting, Journalism and the communities of New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that the quality and character of life in this great Empire State is indelibly enriched by the faithful and untiring efforts of those individuals who have helped shape the history of broadcasting; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor the life of Bob Law, pioneering Black radio broadcaster, and his incredible service to Broadcasting, Journalism and the communities of New York; and

WHEREAS, Robert (Bob) Louis Law was born on April 6, 1939, in Brooklyn, New York, to John Law and Lucille Law; and

WHEREAS, Bob Law studied visual communications and commercial art at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn from 1959 to 1961; he went on to work as a graphic artist and magazine art director; and

WHEREAS, In 1962, Bob Law became involved with the civil rights movement when he joined the Brooklyn chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE); he then became a Field Secretary and student organizer with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC); and

WHEREAS, Bob Law's involvement with the Independent Movement for Political Action (IMPA), a community organization in Brooklyn, led to his move into radio when he was invited to discuss the movement's antidrug message as a guest on "Tell It Like It Is," a Sunday afternoon show hosted by Bernie McCain, WWRL's public affairs director; and

WHEREAS, When Bernie McCain left the station in the early 1970s, he asked Bob Law to take over his position and soon after, Bob Law got his first taste of hosting when he started "Black Dialogue," a weekly two-hour program on the station; and

WHEREAS, In 1981, about a decade into his radio career, Bob Law began hosting "Night Talk," a midnight-to-5-a.m. call-in show on WWRL-AM in Queens, New York, that was carried over stations nationwide by the National Black Network; it became the first live nationally syndicated Black radio talk show; and

WHEREAS, Bob Law used his platform to expose a national audience to local causes like building housing for poor sharecroppers in Tunica, Mississippi, asking his listeners in 1982, to donate money to help save Mound Bayou, a small Mississippi city founded in 1887 by freed slaves, from financial ruin, and he encouraged the establishment of the National

Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, on the site of the former Lorraine Motel, where the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in 1968; and

WHEREAS, When he moved to WBAI, another New York station, in 2013, Bob Law continued his community focus with the show "From The Streets"; and

WHEREAS, Bob Law was incredibly passionate about wellness and for many years, with his wife, Muntu (Doggett) Law, by his side, they ran Namaskar-a health and wellness store that stocked products for the Black community-in Brooklyn along with a children's bookstore and a restaurant; and

WHEREAS, At the age of 86, Bob Law died on March 30, 2026, in Mineola, New York; he is predeceased by his wife, Muntu, and survived by his daughters Aisha Patrice Abdullah and Ms. Law Napier; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and sister, Carole Peppers; and

WHEREAS, Bob Law has, throughout his career and purposeful life, served his community with integrity and devotion, continuously striving to meet the needs of his listeners and community through entertainment and enlightenment; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the life of Bob Law, pioneering Black radio broadcaster, and his incredible service to Broadcasting, Journalism and the communities of New York; and be it further

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