Senate Resolution No. 2258

BY: Senator CLEARE

MOURNING the death of Rob Base, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community

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

WHEREAS, On Friday, May 22, 2026, Rob Base, of Harlem, New York, died at the age of 59; and

WHEREAS, Rob Base was born Robert Ginyard on May 18, 1967; in the fourth grade, he relocated from the Bronx to Harlem in Manhattan where he became a classmate of future rapper, DJ E-Z Rock; he attended Harlem public schools and loved music; influenced by rap, he performed in talent shows and as many open mic or hip-hop events as possible; and

WHEREAS, Rob Base and DJ E-Z Rock became a hip-hop duo, releasing their first single album in the United States, "DJ Interview," in 1986; their first Profile release was "It Takes Two" which quickly climbed to number three on the Billboard Hot Dance/Club Songs chart in 1988; later, it was certified platinum status by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) seven times; and

WHEREAS, The track has been sampled by other performers and featured in films and video games; 20 years later, in 2008, the song was ranked number 37 on VH1's 100 Greatest Songs of Hip-Hop; additionally, it is credited with helping to take hip-hop to mainstream success in dance clubs and the pop charts; and

WHEREAS, Rob Base's music, energy, and legacy helped shape a generation and brought joy to millions around the world; beyond the stage, he was a loving father, family man, friend, and creative force whose impact will never be forgotten; he is known for being a pioneer of the crossover success that rap music had in the popular music mainstream; and

WHEREAS, Rob Base leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all he served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Rob Base; and be it further

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