

A Resolution submitted by
Legislator Miller-Williams

WHEREAS, Almighty God, in His infinite wisdom, on Saturday November 21, 2015, removed from our midst one of his own, Ms. Joy Wiley McDuffie, in whose death we have lost a sincere and loyal friend, a valued and respected community leader, and whose family has lost a kind and devoted member; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Joy Wiley McDuffie was born in Buffalo, New York to parents Curtis Laster and Izzie Mullins Brice, she was blessed to be raised by the late George and Theoda (Peaches) Wiley, and she was blessed with seven sisters, two brothers, two children Jamar and Rashied, and six grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Joy Wiley McDuffie was educated in the Buffalo Public School and went on to graduate from Holy Angels Academy, she continued her education at Medaille College earning a Bachelor's in Business Administration. She also pursued her Master's Degree at the University at Buffalo where she earned a degree in Urban and Regional Planning with a specialization in Geographic Information Systems. During her tenure at University at Buffalo, she was recognized for excellence in her field of study and was awarded the 'Spirit of Planning' Chair's Award; and

WHEREAS, after graduating High School at the age of 16, Ms. Joy Wiley McDuffie went on to attain an accounting degree and became a supervisor at Union Carbide where her vision, education and success as a supervisor inspired her entrepreneurial spirit and she became the owner of Club Joy for over twenty years. She went on to become a foreclosure prevention specialist at the Western New York Law Center; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Joy Wiley McDuffie demonstrated the true value of community involvement, her passion for social action allowed her to develop an undeniable call to generate change. She accepted leadership roles to address drop-out prevention and led housing initiatives in the region. She was convinced that school-centered community revitalization would lead Buffalo down an increasingly progressive road to economic restoration and her dedication was exemplified in a quote in Business Journal magazine "Buffalo is on the move and we are going to make sure our neighborhoods are not left behind"; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Joy Wiley McDuffie's rapid ascension in urban planning included distinguished awards and numerous government and community-based achievements, she was the recipient of the 'Second-Half Champions Award, a

national life-time achievement for remarkable contributions to society. Ms. Joy Wiley McDuffie was often called “Miss Buffalo”, and her legacy has been an inspiration to the hopeless and to those who are left out and her work will continue to speak for those who are in need for generations to come.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby mourn the passing of Ms. Joy Wiley McDuffie, and pauses in its deliberations to honor and celebrate her life, her love for the community and her legacy of community activism. And be it further

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature offers our thoughts, prayers, and deepest sympathy to Ms. Joy Wiley McDuffie’s, family, friends and colleagues on the loss of this exceptional woman of God who remains well loved by many.