

A Proclamation submitted by
Legislator Barbara Miller-Williams

Re: Memorial Resolution In Remembrance Of Mr. Leroy R. Coles, Jr.

WHEREAS, Almighty God, in His infinite wisdom, on March 25, 2015, removed from our midst Leroy R. Coles, Jr., in whose death we have lost a sincere and loyal friend, as well as a valued and respected citizen, and whose family has lost a kind and devoted member; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Coles served as president and chief executive officer of the Buffalo Urban League for 26 years, where he was known for his dedicated work in helping to establish programs to help meet the needs of the urban poor and break down racial barriers; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Morgan State University and serving in the U.S. Army, Mr. Coles began his career and life-long service to civil rights by joining the Urban League as its Director of Physical Education and Recreation in 1958; and

WHEREAS, in 1963, Mr. Coles joined the Reverend Martin Luther King at the Peoples March on Washington; and

WHEREAS, after serving as Director of Economic Development and Employment for the Buffalo Urban League in 1968, he was appointed President of the Union County Urban League in Elizabeth, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, Mr. Coles became President of the Buffalo Urban League and helped to establish the first black adoption agency in upstate New

York, heading up a community fund drive which raised over \$1.5 million dollars to build the Buffalo Urban League's present headquarters; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure at the Buffalo Urban League, he helped local governments enact affirmative action policies which created job training programs for the disadvantaged, through his role as mediator he helped encourage dialog among ethnic, racial and religious groups to form a better understanding in the community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Coles is survived by his wife of 55 years, Constance; by his three sons, Kyle, Neil and Eric; and also by two granddaughters; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Coles' lifelong dedication to community service and commitment to creating solutions for the betterment of society, are an inspiration to be followed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby mourn the passing of Leroy R. Coles, Jr. and pause in its deliberations to honor and celebrate the Life of Leroy R. Coles, Jr., and offer our thoughts, prayers and deepest sympathy to Mr. Coles' family, friends, and colleagues.