

STATE OF NEW YORK
LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY

BUFFALO, NY, NOVEMBER 6, 2020

In Remembrance of Edward Gibson

WHEREAS, Almighty God, in His infinite wisdom, on October 27, 2020, removed from our midst *Edward Gibson* in whose death we have lost a loving father, husband, grandfather, great-grandfather, valued and respected citizen, and whose family has lost a leader, kind and devoted member; and

WHEREAS, Edward was born on September 2, 1948 in Lackawanna, New York to Rachel O. Gibson (Manuel) and the late Shelby L. Gibson; and

WHEREAS, he attended Lackawanna Public Schools and would go onto enlist in the Army at the young age of 17 and valiantly served his country in the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, during his time serving our country, Eddie was the honored recipient of several awards: National Defense Service Medal, Combat Infantry Badge (his most treasured), Vietnam Service Medal, two Overseas Service Bars, National Infantry Medal and a Bronze Star for his valor and fortitude; and

WHEREAS, Eddie also attained the rank of 2nd Lieutenant; and

WHEREAS, upon completion of his tour of duty, Edward began employment with the Consolidated Freightways Company, where he was the dock supervisor until his retirement; and

WHEREAS, he also attended classes as a student at SUNY Buffalo State College and the University of Buffalo; and

WHEREAS, in 1970, Eddie met the love of his life, Linda and built a true friendship and a bond for many years; and

WHEREAS, on July 6th, 2002, Eddie and Linda united in holy matrimony and shared 18 years of unconditional love throughout their marriage; and

WHEREAS, through their union in marriage, Edward and Linda brought three wonderful children into this world ; Abena T'ene Owens, Traci Owens Benjamin and Lt Colonel Malik J. E. Freeman; and

WHEREAS, Eddie and Linda loved dancing, traveling and music, specifically jazz; and

WHEREAS, Eddie was a jazz aficionado who loved to attend jazz concerts along with attending other music festivals; and

WHEREAS, Eddie and Linda also loved cruises and trips to the Caribbean; and

WHEREAS, Edward was a huge advocate for veterans rights and worked tirelessly with veteran housing services to secure housing for countless homeless veterans; and

WHEREAS, Eddie was a member of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Lackawanna, and when he moved to Buffalo, he became a devoted member of White Rock Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, his love for the Lord was felt by his family and friends through his kind spirit and charming personality; and

WHEREAS, many of Eddie's longtime friendships blossomed from his time in Boy Scouts with Troop 596, a place where his peers called him "The Gipper" ;and

WHEREAS, Edward was preceded in death by his father, Shelby Gibson Clark; one brother, Tommy Gibson; one sister, Rita Lenae Gibson; and

WHEREAS, his life and legacy will continue to prosper on Earth by his wife, Linda Mack Freeman-Gibson; his beloved children; Abena, Traci and Malik (Akiba); seven grandchildren; Devontia, D'quan, Shamara, Asiya, Aamori, Atalya and Asher; two great grandchildren; Markeith and Jacquetta; his mother, Rachel Gibson; one aunt, Kimberly Cole; two siblings; Patricia and Kenneth (Brenda D). He is also survived by his cousins; Michael Scruggs (Sandra), Peggy Parkey, Jacquelyn Green; brother in law, Vernon Mack; sister in law, Roslyn Mclin; his Godchildren; Fanta, Shaniaa, Cameron, Kennedy and a host of nieces, relatives and close friends ;Kevin Bennett, Roland Hayes, William Scott, James Wallace, Clarence Washington and his "Lackawanna Crew" ; and

WHEREAS, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor and pay tribute to the life of **Edward Gibson** whose lifelong dedication to God, family and community are an inspiration to be admired, emulated and honored.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby mourn the passing of **Edward Gibson** and pause in its deliberations to recognize his praiseworthy life, his love of family and for his commitment and devotion to the betterment of our community; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature express its sympathy and condolences to Mr. Gibson's family and to his many friends, knowing full well that he has received his eternal and glorified reward in Heaven, having heard the consoling words of the Master, "*Well done, thou good and faithful servant.*"

Hon. Howard J. Johnson Jr.
Erie County Legislator, 1st District

Robert M. Graber
Clerk of the Erie County Legislature