

By Legislators Brew and Felder

Intro. No. ____

RESOLUTION NO. ____ OF 2020

IN MEMORIAM

EXPRESSING REGRET OF THE MONROE COUNTY LEGISLATURE ON THE RECENT PASSING OF NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLYMAN AND FORMER MONROE COUNTY LEGISLATOR DAVID F. GANTT

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Monroe County Legislature hereby expresses its deepest sympathy at the recent passing of David F. Gantt, New York State Assemblyman and former Monroe County Legislator.

WHERE AS, David F. Gantt was born in Opp, Alabama to Lena Mae Gantt. Moving to Rochester at an early age, David showed a passion for civil rights and commitment to service, following the example of his mother, who served as a community advocate until her death in 1982. David attended East High School where he became a star athlete, earning a spot on the All-City Basketball team. He continued his education at Roberts Wesleyan College, studying math and science. David served as an administrator at the Anthony L. Jordan Health Center, whose name was suggested by David; and

WHERE AS, in 1973, David was elected the Monroe County Legislature, serving the 22nd District for nine years. During his tenure, Gantt served as Assistant Majority Leader, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, Vice-Chairman of the Finance and Budget Committee and as Ranking Minority Member of the Human Services Committee. David was elected to the New York State Assembly in 1982 as the representative for the 133rd District, which became the 137th in 2012. He held this seat until his recent passing; and

WHERE AS, after becoming the first Black Monroe County resident to be elected to a State office, David advocated for civil rights and for the poor community in Rochester. He spent his 37 years in the State Assembly writing legislation to improve safety, equality, and infrastructure in the State of New York. He is remembered for his efforts to create more affordable housing and health care services for the young and elderly. He also advocated on behalf of Black-owned businesses and worked to improve education in the City of Rochester. David is admired for his efforts to secure over \$1 billion for the Rochester Schools Modernization Program. He also secured funding for a new Rochester Educational Opportunity Center in Downtown Rochester; and

WHERE AS, David passed away on July 1, 2020 at the age of 78. He is survived by close friends and family, and he is remembered by those close to him as a devoted public servant, humanitarian and leader in the Rochester community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature is hereby requested to forward a copy of this resolution to the bereaved family.

This resolution was adopted unanimously with each legislator rising in his or her place for a moment of silence.