



Legislation Text

File #: Res 0087-2010, **Version:** *

Res. No. 87

Resolution honoring the life of the Honorable Percy E. Sutton by proclaiming Sunday, July 25, 2010, as “Percy E. Sutton Day.”

By Council Members Dickens, Brewer, Chin, Comrie, Dromm, Fidler, Jackson, Koppell, Koslowitz, Lander, Mark-Viverito, Mealy, Nelson, Palma, Recchia, Williams, Rodriguez, Halloran and Koo

Whereas, Percy Ellis Sutton was born on November 24, 1920, the youngest of 15 children, in San Antonio, Texas and moved to New York when he was 12 years old; and

Whereas, He served valiantly in both World War II with the Tuskegee Airmen and in the Korean War; and

Whereas, After completing law school at Brooklyn Law in 1950, Mr. Sutton opened a law practice in Harlem; and

Whereas, He used his legal expertise to represent over 200 civil rights activists arrested in protests in the South; and

Whereas, Mr. Sutton also represented Malcolm X during the Civil Rights Movement, and after Malcolm X passed away, Mr. Sutton successfully secured burial rights for him; and

Whereas, Mr. Sutton worked on political campaigns, for himself and others, beginning in the 1950’s, and was elected to the New York State Assembly in 1964; and

Whereas, He served on the New York City Council from 1966-1977, helping the City through the fiscal crisis of the mid 1970’s; and

Whereas, Mr. Sutton also invested heavily in the New York Amsterdam News, the largest black-run newspaper in the City, and co-owned 18 radio stations throughout the Northeast; and

Whereas, He also purchased, renovated, and revitalized the Apollo Theater in 1981, leading to the production of the nationally-syndicated, “It’s Showtime at the Apollo” program; and

Whereas, Countless prominent African-American leaders, including Governor David Paterson and President Barack Obama, have hailed Mr. Sutton as a hero to African-Americans in New York City and around the country; and

Whereas, July 25, 2010 will mark the beginning of Harlem week, which began in 1974 as Harlem Day, and is a period of time during which Harlem celebrates and showcases its rich history and important contributions of its culture and people; and

Whereas, This would be a fitting day to honor Percy Sutton and his numerous contributions to his beloved Village of Harlem; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York honors the life of the Honorable Percy E. Sutton by proclaiming Sunday, July 25, 2010, as “Percy E. Sutton Day.”

AC/jp
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