



NEW YORK STATE SENATE



Proclamation

COMMEMORATING GENE A. NORMAN FOR HIS RELENTLESS DEDICATION TO THE BETTERMENT OF HIS COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, It is the tradition of this city and state to pay just tribute to those inspiring individuals who have substantially contributed to our quality of life, as exemplified through a lifetime of thoughtful community-building, dynamic difference-making, zealous advocacy and munificent public service; and

WHEREAS, It is with a fundamental sense of pride and humble gratitude that I, New York State Senator Bill Perkins, hereby commemorate and celebrate Gene A. Norman for his inspiring, exceptional, tireless and immeasurable work on behalf of our connected communities as he is lauded with special recognition by Landmark West on Monday, December 14, 2015; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Norman was born on February 14, 1935 in St. Thomas, and emigrated with his family to New York City later that year; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Norman spent time calling both Harlem and the Lower East Side home before finally settling in the Bronx, where he makes his happy home to this very day; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Norman was always highly gifted and talented; he graduated from Hunter College before answering the call of his country and serving with distinction in the United States Marine Corps for eight years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Norman returned home from service and attended Pratt Institute under the Korean War G.I. Bill; he majored in Architectural Studies and was soon to become a dynamic and leading architect in New York; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Norman's accomplishments were magnified by the fact that it was exceedingly difficult for a man of color to become an architect in the 1950s, due to structural racism; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Norman designed and executed a number of important projects during his architectural career, including portions of the campus at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, the Newark Airport and many of the original New York City Off-Track Betting Corporation offices; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Norman brought his talents to the New York State Urban Development Corporation in 1972, working out of the Harlem office; as Senior Coordinating Architect, he was responsible for the erection of 5,000 housing units in Upstate New York and countless projects of acclaim throughout Harlem over the years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Norman was enlisted to serve as Chairman of the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) in 1983; he presided over the LPC during a time of great debate, uncertainty and turbulence, yet provided a skilled, learned and commanding hand; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Norman led the purposeful drive to designate dozens of Broadway theaters as landmarks, while protecting sacred places such as the New York Historical Society Building and St. Bartholomew's Church from the wrecking ball and heedless development; additionally, he made the systematic study and protection of Upper West Side/Central Park West a priority of his tenure; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Norman is a true inspiration, leading community preservation advocate, master architect and wonderful human being who we as a community are blessed to call one of our own; now, therefore, be it

PROCLAIMED, That I, New York State Senator Bill Perkins, recognize that in Gene A. Norman we have an individual worthy of our highest respect and esteem; and be it further

PROCLAIMED, That a copy of this proclamation be transmitted to Gene A. Norman.

Dated:

December 14, 2015

in Witness Whereof, I have Hereunto Set My Hand and Signature

Bill Perkins

Bill Perkins

New York State Senate

30th District

