RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees of The City University of New York approve the naming of the “Herbert Kurz Leadership Academy” and the “Herbert Kurz Chair of Finance and Risk Management” at Brooklyn College.

EXPLANATION: Herbert Kurz graduated from Brooklyn College in 1941 as an economics major. He joined the U.S. Army Air Corps and became a decorated navigator, flying over Northern Europe and Greenland during World War II. After the war, in 1946 he founded Veterans Against Discrimination, which worked to call attention to racial injustice in the United States. In 1965, Mr. Kurz founded Presidential Life, a successful insurance and annuity business based in Nyack, New York, now part of the Athene Annuity & Life Assurance Company of New York. As part of his dedication to social change, Mr. Kurz and his wife, Edythe, established the Kurz Family Foundation, which has been very supportive of Rockland County charities and has also provided significant support to Brooklyn College.

Mr. Kurz served as a trustee of the Brooklyn College Foundation and previously endowed the “Herb Kurz Chair in Constitutional Rights” in the political science department, along with a long-running lecture series on civil liberties and academic freedom. In November 2014, the Kurz Family Foundation pledged $2.5 million to the Brooklyn College Foundation to endow the “Herbert Kurz Chair of Finance and Risk Management” in the School of Business, and the “Herbert Kurz Leadership Academy,” which aims to increase the number of African Americans, Latinos, and members of other historically underrepresented groups who enroll in and graduate from Brooklyn College.

Mr. Kurz died on November 24, 2014 at the age of 94. In recognition of his lifelong commitment to supporting Brooklyn College, the College requests approval to name the “Herbert Kurz Leadership Academy” and the “Herbert Kurz Chair of Finance and Risk Management” in his honor.