

2011-J2611

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION paying tribute to the life and accomplishments of Joseph Benton Steffy, Jr., distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to citizens of the State of New York whose lifework and civic endeavor served to enhance the quality of life in their communities and the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Born on April 3, 1926, in Chattanooga, Tennessee, Joseph Benton Steffy, Jr. of Newburgh, New York, died on Saturday, May 21, 2011, at the age of 85; and

WHEREAS, A longtime resident of Newburgh, New York, Joseph Benton Steffy, Jr. was the retired owner-dealer of Broadway Buick in Newburgh; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Benton Steffy, Jr. attended Normal Park Elementary School and Northside Junior High in Chattanooga, Tennessee; he graduated from Baylor High School in Chattanooga in 1944, and then attended the University of Tennessee in 1944-45, prior to his appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, graduating in the Class of 1949; and

WHEREAS, A veteran of the Korean War, where he was wounded in action and received the Bronze Star and Purple Heart, Joseph Benton Steffy, Jr. returned to West Point after the war to serve as an assistant football coach under the legendary Head Coach, Colonel Earl "Red" Blaik; and

WHEREAS, An outstanding high school and college athlete, Joseph Benton Steffy, Jr. played one platoon football; during his career, he played guard on offense and nose tackle on defense and was also a place-kicker; while in high school, he also participated in boxing and track; and

WHEREAS, At the University of Tennessee, Joseph Benton Steffy, Jr. was

a letterman on its undefeated football team that went to the Rose Bowl in 1944; he also was a member of the track and field team and went to the SEC championships as Tennessee's one-man team, finishing in third place; he was inducted into the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame in 1999; and

WHEREAS, At the U.S. Military Academy, Joseph Benton Steffy, Jr. was a three-time varsity letterman and starred on the undefeated national championship Army teams of 1945 and 1946 coached by Red Blaik; in addition, in 1947, his senior year, he was the captain of the Army football team, a first team All-American guard and received the prestigious Outland Trophy as the nation's most outstanding lineman; he is Army's only Outland Trophy winner; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Benton Steffy, Jr. was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1987, as well as into the Army Sports Hall of Fame in the 2007; his football jersey number 61 was retired by the U.S. Military Academy in 2010; and

WHEREAS, A past president of the Powelton Club, Joseph Benton Steffy, Jr. was an avid golfer and tennis player; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his beloved wife, Ann Brown Steffy, in 2004, Joseph Benton Steffy, Jr. is survived by his son, Benton Steffy and his wife, Lia; grandsons, JB, Ryan and Kyle Steffy; sisters, Florence DeGozzaldi and husband, Phil, and Ellen Waggoner and husband, Hal; and by many nieces and nephews, as well as by his good friend, Louis Brooks; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit, imbued with a sense of compassion, and comforted by a loving family, Joseph Benton Steffy, Jr. leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and

will remain as a comforting memory to all he served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to pay tribute to the life and accomplishments of Joseph Benton Steffy, Jr.,

distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Joseph Benton Steffy, Jr.