

2013-J80

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Brooklyn, New York, activist Jon Kest, 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, Jon Kest, a founder of the Working Families Party and a long-time community advocate in New York, who organized the recent strike by the city's fast-food workers, among many other initiatives, died on Wednesday, December 5, 2012, at the age of 57; and

WHEREAS, Jonathan Lee Kest was born on June 17, 1955, in Mount Vernon and raised in White Plains; after studying at Oberlin College, he earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, About a decade ago, Mr. Kest conceived the drive to organize home day care workers; today, 17,000 of these workers belong to the United Federation of Teachers; and

WHEREAS, At his death, Jon Kest was the executive director of New York Communities for Change, an organization based in Brooklyn that advocates on behalf of poor and working-class New Yorkers on issues like wages, housing and education; and

WHEREAS, Jon Kest distinguished himself in his profession and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community; and

WHEREAS, Jon Kest's commitment to excellence, and his spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his daughter Jessie, Jon Kest is survived by his wife, Fran and his son, Jake, his parents, Martin and Ruth Kest and

his siblings Steven and Amy; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Jon Kest 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 mourn the death of Brooklyn, New York, activist Jon Kest, 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 Jon Kest.