

2013-J141

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION paying tribute to the life and career of Roger F. Coleman, Publisher of Hudson-Catskill Newspapers, and expressing sincerest sorrow upon the occasion of his death

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body to acknowledge those certain individuals whose life work and civic endeavors testify to extraordinary commitment to their community and to their profession; and WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its longstanding traditions, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to the life and career of Roger F. Coleman, Publisher of Hudson-Catskill Newspapers and Chairman of the Board of New York News Publishers Association, who died on Monday, December 31, 2012, at the age of 61; and

WHEREAS, In 2004, Roger F. Coleman became publisher of the REGISTER-STAR in Hudson, and THE DAILY MAIL in Catskill, which also includes the weekly publications THE MOUNTAIN EAGLE, WINDHAM JOURNAL, CHATHAM COURIER, RAVENA NEWS-HERALD and GREENE COUNTY NEWS; and

WHEREAS, After graduating from Southern Illinois University, Roger F. Coleman started in the newspaper business as a motor route driver for the local newspaper, THE NEWS TRIBUNE, in LaSalle, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, From motor route driver, Roger F. Coleman was promoted to district circulation manager, then moved to retail ad sales; he spent some time doing ad sales at the TRIBUNE-TIMES, in Tampa, Florida, before being hired by the KANE COUNTY CHRONICLE of St. Charles, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, While working at the KANE COUNTY CHRONICLE, Roger F. Coleman moved from advertising/sales manager, to ad director, to general manager, to associate publisher, to publisher of four weekly community papers, which eventually consolidated into one daily; he had also

published newspapers in both Ashland, Kentucky, and suburban Milwaukee;
and

WHEREAS, At the time of his death, Roger F. Coleman was the Chairman of the New York News Publishers Association Board of Directors; he was also the past president of the New York Press Association, and a member of the Board of the New York Press Service and New York Press Foundation; and

WHEREAS, With a huge passion for the newspaper business, Roger F. Coleman understood what newspapers were all about and how important it was for a newspaper to reflect its community; and

WHEREAS, Roger F. Coleman also had a love for both storytelling and public speaking; known to many as one of the best, he was often asked to emcee events happening within his community; and

WHEREAS, An honorable businessman, Roger F. Coleman stood out above the rest; his professionalism, his overall character, and the profound knowledge he had as a skilled newspaper publisher could not be matched; and

WHEREAS, A dedicated member of his community, Roger F. Coleman served as a volunteer in many capacities and on numerous boards; he was the vice president of the Hudson Rotary; he was also a member of the Columbia County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and the Columbia County Association in the City of New York; and

WHEREAS, In addition, he was a member of the Community Advisory Board of the Salvation Army; he not only helped in making decisions regarding the organization's chart finances and building issues, but he volunteered his time as a bellringer; moreover, during the holidays, Roger F. Coleman always made sure people got their meals and presents; and

WHEREAS, Gracious, generous and highly supportive of literacy for youngsters, Roger F. Coleman was also a strong sponsor of the Hudson Children's Book Festival; he was a fan of anything promoting authors, writing and reading; and

WHEREAS, Roger F. Coleman is survived by his wife, Christie Coleman; two daughters, Courtney Coleman and Ashley Kilgore; a son-in-law, Daniel; a grandson, Colton; and a granddaughter, Collins; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Roger F. Coleman 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 career of Roger F. Coleman, Publisher of Hudson-Catskill Newspapers, and to express sincerest sorrow upon the occasion of his death; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Roger F. Coleman.