

2013-J1056

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of James S. Cameron, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay proper tribute to individuals of great character whose lives reflected the highest ideals of humanity and whose lifework enhanced the quality of life in the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, With deep remorse, this Legislative Body is moved to mourn the passing of James S. Cameron, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community, who died on March 7, 2013, at the age of 82; and

WHEREAS, James S. Cameron was one of New York State's foremost child welfare experts who, for 50 years, provided educational and policy leadership on child abuse and neglect treatment and prevention in the State and throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, The son of the late Donald and Bertha Kenney Cameron, James S. Cameron was born on April 6, 1930, in Bridgewater, Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, James S. Cameron served his country as a member of the United States Army as a psychiatric social worker during the Korean War; after leaving the service, he earned an MA/AB from Boston University in 1955, and a Master of Social Work degree from the University at Buffalo, State University of New York, in 1961; and

WHEREAS, James S. Cameron began his child welfare career in Buffalo, New York, working his way up to the position of Director of Child Protective Services in Erie County; he then moved to the Albany area to become the first Director of New York's Child Protective Services, advising the New York State Legislature and setting up the Statewide Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment and reporting hotline;

and

WHEREAS, James S. Cameron used his vast knowledge of child welfare issues and policy to make a positive difference in the lives of countless children across the nation; he was a much sought after speaker at state and national conferences, published numerous articles on child protective services practice, and served on several state and national committees dedicated to protecting children from violence, including the National Resource Center on Child Abuse; and

WHEREAS, James S. Cameron's commitment to excellence, and his spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, He was a faithful and beloved member of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Albany for many years where he generously used his talents in support of many of the church's ministries; he served as a vestry member, senior warden, and member and chair of the Outreach Committee, as well as the parish liaison to the Extra Helpings food buying club sponsored by FOCUS Interfaith Food Pantry; and

WHEREAS, James S. Cameron exemplified what it truly means to give of oneself; he was a beautiful light in the lives of all of those with whom he came into contact; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his parents, James S. Cameron is predeceased by his late wife, Lee Scanlon Cameron and son, Adam Cameron; brothers, Donald Cameron Jr. and Malcolm Cameron; and a brother-in-law, Peter Scanlon; he is survived by his daughter, Paige L. Cameron and his sister-in-law, Frances (Stanley) Merrill; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, James S. Cameron's life was a portrait of love and service; he 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 James S. Cameron, 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 James S. Cameron.