

2013-J2617

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION celebrating the life and accomplishments of Harold Greenstein

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to mourn publicly the death of cherished citizens of the State of New York who distinguished themselves serving the citizens of their community with exemplary dedication and conscientious service; and

WHEREAS, It is with great sorrow this Legislative Body records the passing of Harold Greenstein, distinguished citizen of Albany, New York, on Saturday evening, May 25, 2013, in the comfort of his own home surrounded by his loving family, at the age of 88; and

WHEREAS, Harold Greenstein, a gentle giant, was born on October 10, 1924 in New Britain, Connecticut, the youngest child and only son of Edward and Sarah Wellins Greenstein; his sisters Lucile and Mabel are both of blessed memory; and

WHEREAS, Harold Greenstein graduated from New Britain High School in 1942, where he was one of only two Jewish students who played football; his childhood was tarnished by the death of his father when Harold was just seven years old; as the youngest in a family with three women, he was very shy as a child; and

WHEREAS, Upon graduation from high school, he attended Purdue University; after two years studying to become a chemical engineer, Harold was drafted into the U.S. Navy to serve in World War II; he chose to be educated in meteorology because the station in Lakehurst, New Jersey, was the closest to his home; and

WHEREAS, After completing his training, his orders sent him to Pearl Harbor, attached to CINPAC (Commander in Chief Pacific) on Admiral Nimitz's personal staff; Harold Greenstein was discharged from the Navy in 1946; and

WHEREAS, Two days after his discharge, his uncle Sam Greenstein went to New Britain, Connecticut, and told Harold he was opening a wholesale liquor distributorship in Albany; Harold thought about the G.I. Bill of Rights, which would pay to send him back to school but, his mother said, "You're going with Uncle Sam."; and

WHEREAS, Harold Greenstein would later recall that it turned out to be the greatest advice he would ever receive; and

WHEREAS, He moved to Albany to work with his uncle, not knowing anyone there; the liquor enterprise, Ramapo Wine and Liquor, did very well; his career as salesman and sales manager spanned 42 years; and

WHEREAS, His best moment though was when he met Beverly Goldstein; they were married for more than 53 years until Beverly's death in 2004 and he always believed that his luck was the best ever in Albany; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Corning, who held office for 40 years, looked to Harold to run for the first elected school board; Mayor Corning then suggested Harold run for the Albany Common Council; he won election to the Council and he went on to also serve as Alderman of the 14th Ward for 20 years and as the Majority Leader and head of the Law Committee; and

WHEREAS, Harold Greenstein would later serve the City of Albany as Chairman of the Civil Service Commission, a Freedom of Information Appeals Officer, Purchaser in the Albany County Purchasing Department and as a Court Attendant at the Albany County Courthouse; and

WHEREAS, Harold Greenstein served under Mayors Corning, Whalen and Jennings, all the while, making sure he was home every night for dinner; and

WHEREAS, In addition to being a loving and devoted family man, Harold Greenstein was a coach, a mentor and a best friend and will always be remembered for his wit and wisdom; and

WHEREAS, Harold Greenstein is survived by his children, Edward (Cynthia), Dr. Neal (Cindy), Michael and Nancy (Barry); as well as his grandchildren, Joshua (Allyson), Adam (Robyn), Jeffrey, Marcus (Myriam), Eric

and Matthew (Erica); several nieces and nephews; brother-in-law, Dr. Arthur Goldstein (Sheila) and his special companion Claire Brandt; and WHEREAS, Harold Greenstein was an active and valued member of the Jewish War Veterans, Knights of Pythias and Congregation Beth Emeth; and WHEREAS, Harold Greenstein not only brought his expertise to every task, he brought his passion, enthusiasm, and experience as well; and WHEREAS, Over his meritorious life, Harold Greenstein distinguished himself as a man of values and commitment and of sincere dedication and substantial contribution; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to pay tribute to the memory of Harold Greenstein, to celebrate his life, and to applaud his many accomplishments that future generations may know and appreciate his admirable character and the esteem in which he was held; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Harold Greenstein with the deepest condolences of this Legislative Body.