

2013-J2703

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Floyd Herzog, 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, Floyd Herzog died on Thursday, July 18, 2013, at the age of 77; and

WHEREAS, Floyd Herzog was a long-time producer and director of the Anderson Center for the Performing Arts at Binghamton University; he arrived at the institution on January 1, 1985, as the Anderson Center's artistic director; and

WHEREAS, Five years later, Floyd Herzog assumed the director's position, overseeing all managerial and artistic concerns down to the last detail until his retirement in June 2010; he remained an artistic consultant for the Center through December 2012; and

WHEREAS, As a doctoral student at Ohio University, Floyd Herzog was a Fulbright Scholar and traveled to Milan where he gained valuable experience in staging at Italy's La Scala Opera House, the queen of all opera houses and a place he cherished, before completing his dissertation and earning his PhD in comparative arts; and

WHEREAS, Floyd Herzog then worked as head of academic affairs for United States International University's School of Performing Arts in San Diego, California, and as director of the Centre College Regional Arts Center in Danville, Kentucky, before coming to Binghamton; while in Kentucky, he produced, in collaboration with the American Institute for Verdi Studies at New York University, the Fifth International Verdi Congress; and

WHEREAS, The book VERDI'S MIDDLE PERIOD, which chronicles the 1993 Belfast International Verdi Congress, is dedicated to Floyd Herzog; he presented artists from more than 26 countries and all continents except Antarctica during his tenure at the Anderson Center; he directed three major international festivals while he was at Binghamton; and

WHEREAS, The first two, were in Northern Ireland in 1992, and the other in Scotland in 1996, both in collaboration with The British Council, established a model for other British Council international partnerships in 100 countries; and

WHEREAS, The third festival, the four-month, semester-long Homage to Greece: A Celebration of Hellenic Culture in 1999, was perhaps Floyd Herzog's proudest achievement, in part because it took so long to put together; and

WHEREAS, The festival was developed in collaboration with the ministries and impresarios of Greece and was the first time Greece ever collaborated on such an endeavor anywhere; Floyd Herzog helped place Binghamton University among the very few institutions of higher education that are noted and celebrated for leadership in international education; in 2007, he was recognized for his efforts with the Binghamton University Award for Excellence in International Education; and

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

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

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Floyd Herzog 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 Floyd Herzog, 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 Floyd Herzog.