

## 2013-J2722

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Francis R. Russo Jr., 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, Francis R. Russo Jr. of Oneonta, New York, died on Sunday, July 7, 2013, at the age of 83; and

WHEREAS, Francis R. Russo Jr. was a lifelong resident of Oneonta, New York, and the son of the late Ralph and Faustina Russo; and

WHEREAS, In 1950, Francis R. Russo Jr. joined the United States Air Force, where he met and married his wife, Sheila, of nearly 60 years; after leaving the Air Force he worked as a brakeman on the Delaware and Hudson Railroad; and

WHEREAS, Francis R. Russo Jr. became a firefighter for the city of Oneonta in 1958; he admirably served as the department's chief for eight of his 33 years of service; and

WHEREAS, Firefighters exemplify the power of human compassion and the strength of the American spirit through actions of the most heroic magnitude; their sacrifices and their selfless dedication merit tribute and recognition by all citizens of this great country; and

WHEREAS, With strong leadership, as well as a passion for firefighter training and community service, Francis R. Russo Jr. created a dynamic department with the capacity to grow and meet the increasing state and national regulations; his trainings set high standards, and enhanced his crew's ability to work together; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, this exemplary man was a New York State fire instructor, as well as a self-employed painter, operating the RCM Paint-

ing Business; and

WHEREAS, Francis R. Russo Jr.'s strong commitment to excellence and his spirit of humanity carried over into all fields of enterprise,

including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, An active member within his community, Francis R. Russo Jr. was a founding member of Fire Union Local 2408, and the 6th Ward Athletic Association where he served as president and treasurer; and

WHEREAS, In addition, he served as president and on the board of directors of the 6th Ward Booster Club, was a catcher on the Oneonta Municipal Softball League, and was instrumental in the founding of the Oneonta Fast Pitch Softball League; he coached Pee Wee Football, and actively followed Oneonta High School Football; and

WHEREAS, A member of St. Mary's Church, Francis R. Russo Jr. was an usher, and volunteer for the congregation's annual Thanksgiving Dinner; he and his wife also delivered Meals on Wheels; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his sister, Rose Grimes, and sister-in-law, Judith Russo, Francis R. Russo Jr. is survived by his wife, Sheila Russo; children, Renee (Thomas), Gina (Timothy), and Frank III (Diane); grandchildren, Thomas, Angela (Mike), Leanae (James), Leah, Lauren, Frank, Justin, and Antonio; great-grandchildren, Caleb, Shaylee, Michael, Lucia, Dominic, Mila, Coralie, and Arya; sister and brothers, Theresa (Joe), Santo, Robert (Josephine), Joseph (Marge); brothers-in-law, William, John (Sonia), and Ronald (Gail); as well as several nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Francis R. Russo Jr. 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 Francis R. Russo Jr., 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 Francis R. Russo Jr.