

## 2013-J2781

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Judge Jeffrey R. Merrill upon the occasion of his retirement after 30 years of distinguished service to the City of Syracuse

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor the significant milestones in the distinguished careers of esteemed individuals whose lives have been committed to the pursuit of excellence and who bring great pride to the citizens of our great State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Judge Jeffrey R. Merrill upon the occasion of his retirement after 30 years of distinguished service to the City of Syracuse; his family members and friends celebrated his distinguished career at a gathering on September 20, 2013, at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo; and

WHEREAS, Judge Jeffrey Merrill's career in law has spanned more than four decades, three of which having been spent as a City Court Judge; and

WHEREAS, During that time, Judge Merrill developed a reputation for maintaining his compassion for those who appeared before him, especially those trying to better themselves; and

WHEREAS, Following his graduation from Suffield Academy in Suffield, Connecticut, in 1963, Judge Jeffrey Merrill earned his Bachelor's degree in Art History from Colgate University; and

WHEREAS, He began his illustrious career in law as a Deputy Sheriff in Ontario, Seneca, and Onondaga Counties; and

WHEREAS, Judge Jeffrey Merrill earned his Juris Doctor from Syracuse University College of Law in 1971, and subsequently, was admitted to practice law in New York State; and

WHEREAS, Prior to being elected to the Syracuse City Court, Judge

Jeffrey Merrill served as a District Attorney in the Onondaga County District Attorney's Office for over 10 years and then as a STOP-DWI Coordinator in Onondaga County; and

WHEREAS, Judge Jeffrey Merrill was elected to the Syracuse City Court in 1984, and has served as Supervising Judge since 2001, as well as an Acting County Court Judge and Supervising Judge of the Syracuse Drug Treatment Court; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his judicial post, Judge Jeffrey Merrill has devoted countless hours to civic and community activities, including the New York State City Court Judge's Association Legislative Committee, New York State District Attorney's Association, New York State STOP-DWI Coordinator's Association, Deputy Sheriff's Benevolent Association, Criminal Justice Advisory Board, and has served as the Office of Court Administration's Instructor on Local Criminal Courts; and

WHEREAS, Upon his retirement, Judge Jeffrey Merrill will have more time to spend with his loving wife, Jeannie Merrill, his sons, Malcolm and Travis Merrill, his daughter and son-in-law, Samantha and Jeremy Skule, his grandchildren, Hadley and Grant, and his beloved dog, Gunnar; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to recognize and honor Judge Jeffrey R. Merrill upon the occasion of his retirement, and to wish him continued success in all his future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Judge Jeffrey R. Merrill.