

2013-J2966

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Richard Byron, successful businessman and influential community leader

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, Richard Byron of Orchard Park, New York, died on July 8, 2013, at the age of 89; and

WHEREAS, Born in Buffalo, New York, Richard Byron was a 1942 graduate of Bennett High School; and

WHEREAS, He served his country as a member of the United States Army in an engineering combat battalion, responsible for demolition work and building bridges in Europe during World War II; he attained the rank of Master Sergeant and was awarded the Bronze star; and

WHEREAS, Upon the completion of his military service, Richard Byron attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute where he earned a degree in metallurgical engineering in 1949; and

WHEREAS, He later joined the executive development program at Republic Steel Corporation but left to assist his father's company, C.H. Byron Co., Inc., an industrial steel construction and painting contracting business, when his father became ill; and

WHEREAS, Richard Byron owned and operated the company for 43 years, retiring in 1993; the company worked on many large-scale construction projects in the Buffalo area, including what was then Rich Stadium, the home of the Buffalo Bills; and

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

WHEREAS, Richard Byron had a lifelong passion for flight, as a bird watcher and an aviation historian; he traveled extensively for a chance to catch sight of new bird species; and

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

WHEREAS, Richard Byron was an early leader in the Buffalo Audubon Society and a longtime member of the Buffalo Ornithological Society and Aero Club of Buffalo; he was also one of the leaders in the establishment of the Niagara Aerospace Museum and served as its executive director, curator and senior historian; and

WHEREAS, In 2007, Richard Byron was inducted into the Niagara Frontier Aviation and Space Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Richard Byron is survived by his wife, the former Barbara "Bobby" Robins; a daughter, Rachel Moore; and two sons, Charles H. II and Andrew H.; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Richard Byron 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 Richard Byron, successful businessman and influential community leader; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Richard Byron.