

## 2013-J3344

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Richard M. Pedro, World War II veteran, 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, Richard "Dick" M. Pedro of Owego, New York, died on Friday, January 10, 2014, at the age of 87; and

WHEREAS, Richard M. Pedro served his country during World War II as a member of the United States Navy from May 24, 1944 until October 30, 1947, which included 22 months sea duty aboard the USS Weiss and was honorably discharged; and

WHEREAS, Upon his discharge from the United States Navy, Richard M. Pedro joined The American Legion and Tioga Post No. 401 in Owego, New York, and has been an active member for 65 continuous years; he also served as National Commander of the American Legion; in 1964, he was commended with an Honorary Life Membership; and

WHEREAS, Spending much of his life advocating for fellow servicemembers, Richard M. Pedro served in numerous positions with The American Legion at the local, state, and national levels; throughout his life, he remained true to the goals and ideals of the Preamble to The American Legion Constitution by his service to God and country and devotion to mutual helpfulness by service; and

WHEREAS, Retired from IBM after 33 years of service, Richard M. Pedro served his community as Communicant and Lay-lector of St. Patrick's Church, Owego, New York; member of the Tioga County Historical Society; Life Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars; Life Member of the Elks Lodge No. 1039; President of the Tioga County Christmas League; member

and Past Board President of the New York State Veterans' Home in Oxford, New York; and

WHEREAS, In July of 2013, Richard M. Pedro decided to retire from the day to day activities as Department Adjutant, American Legion, Department of New York, to spend more time with his family; and

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

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

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his parents, Michael and Florence Pedro; brother and sister-in-law, Charles and Jean Pedro, sister and brother-in-law, Arlene and Donald Whitney; brother-in-law, John Salata; Richard M. Pedro is survived by his loving wife of almost 61 years, Jeanne M. Pedro; daughter, Debra A. Hackett; son, Richard JM Pedro; seven beautiful grandchildren, Jacquelyn M., Nicole L., Taylor A. and James B. Hackett, John M., Richard D., and Christopher M. Pedro; and sister-in-law, Darlene Salata; as well as several nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Richard M. Pedro 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 M. Pedro, World War II veteran, 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 Richard M. Pedro.