

2013-J3478

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Arthur W. Peck, distinguished citizen and devoted member of the Sullivan County 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, Arthur W. Peck of Narrowsburg, New York, died on January 20, 2014, at the age of 82; and

WHEREAS, Arthur "Art" W. Peck was born on September 18, 1931, in Astoria, Long Island, New York, to Arthur W. Peck, Sr., and Margaret Friedel Peck; he lived in both Damascus and Beach Lake, Pennsylvania, as well as Phoenix, Arizona, before moving to Narrowsburg in 1963; and

WHEREAS, During his youth, Arthur W. Peck was a licensed taxidermist, and honed his woodworking skills, which would later be judged as legendary; and

WHEREAS, Arthur W. Peck distinguished himself in his profession and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community; and

WHEREAS, Arthur W. Peck, along with his wife, Beth, were the founders of the grocery store chain that bears his name, Peck's Market located in Narrowsburg, New York; he turned a broken-down grocery store into what may be the largest mom-and-pop chain of supermarkets in the mid-Hudson area; and

WHEREAS, Prior to owning and operating Peck's Market, Arthur W. Peck was employed by Sid's Market in Honesdale, Pennsylvania, and A. J. Bayless Markets, in Phoenix, Arizona, before purchasing the broken-down grocery store, Oellrich & Behling Market in 1963; the new market was constructed in 1975, and the business, now familiarly known as Peck's

Market, was moved to that location; and

WHEREAS, Peck's Market in Callicoon, New York, was added in 1973; three years later, Peck's Market in Livingston Manor was built; in 1987, the three corporations were sold to Peck's employees, utilizing an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP), one of the first such transactions in New York State; and

WHEREAS, This unusual venture of ESOP was referred to in the October 17, 1989, issue of BUSINESS WEEK; in May of 1990, the Plan was praised in the issue of FAMILY BUSINESS MAGAZINE; and

WHEREAS, During his retirement, Arthur W. Peck pursued many interests including: building a kit car and restoring several vintage automobiles; he also enjoyed handcrafting clocks and restoring others for his collection; and

WHEREAS, In 1995, Arthur W. Peck purchased plans and built his first wooden boat; he went on to build or restore 23 additional boats; since then, he crafted clocks for each of his grandchildren and constructed seven rocking chairs, several of which he personally designed; and

WHEREAS, Arthur W. Peck also bought an electronic Computer Numeric Control router for woodworking and was working with a tutor to master some of its complexities; furthermore, he built a miniature lighthouse, complete with solar light; and

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

WHEREAS, In 1990, Arthur and Beth Peck built and gifted the Tusten-Cochection Library, following a wish list of the first trustees; currently, the Library is a part of Western Sullivan Public Library, which encompasses libraries in Callicoon and Jeffersonville, New York; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, the Pecks donated the first computers to benefit the students at Narrowsburg Central School, and a machine to be used by the students attending Industrial Arts courses; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by one daughter, Arden Peck Kean, Arthur W. Peck is survived by his wife of 62 years, the former Beth Rosericranse; two daughters, Alison Peck and Anita Peck Orsini (Rick); a son, Wayne Peck; his two sisters, Peggy Seiferling O'Neill and Millicent Gresovic; a brother, Frank Peck; and 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Arthur W. Peck 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 Arthur W. Peck, 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 Arthur W. Peck.