

2013-J3534

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Anthony C. Ruffo, 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, Anthony C. Ruffo of Binghamton, New York, died on January 20, 2014, at the age of 89; and

WHEREAS, Anthony C. Ruffo, affectionately known as Tony, was born on August 17, 1924, in Binghamton, New York, to Sam and Marion Ruffo; and

WHEREAS, Upon graduating from Binghamton Central High School in 1942, he enlisted in the United States Army as an Infantryman serving in both the European and Pacific Theaters during WWII; and

WHEREAS, For his bravery Anthony C. Ruffo was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge, the Bronze Star for Valor, and received a Battle Field Commission at the Battle of the Bulge by General George S. Patton, an honor which was forever a great source of pride to him; and

WHEREAS, After being discharged from active military service, Anthony C. Ruffo continued to serve his country as a member of the New York Army National Guard, serving as Commanding Officer, 2nd Battalion 108th Infantry, retiring with the admirable rank of Colonel; and

WHEREAS, Anthony C. Ruffo married his high school sweetheart, Joan Simeck, and together they raised five children on Binghamton's West Side; and

WHEREAS, Anthony C. Ruffo distinguished himself in service to both the military and civil law enforcement and also by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community; and

WHEREAS, Anthony C. Ruffo's dedication to civic life began when he

joined the Binghamton City Police Department as a motorcycle policeman; he held numerous positions over the years, including those in the Detective and Juvenile Division and in Community Relations and Training; and WHEREAS, Retiring from the Binghamton Police Department after 30 years of service, his reputation for outstanding probity and diligence helped him win election as Sheriff of Broome County in 1980, an esteemed position in which he ably served for 10 years; and

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

WHEREAS, Anthony C. Ruffo served many years as the Chairman of the Annual Police Toys for Tots Campaign and as Chairman of the Binghamton Police Benevolent Association; he also worked tirelessly as the President of the Binghamton Police Athletic League Day Camp serving local youth in the community; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his parents, Sam and Marion Ruffo; his loving wife, Joan (Simeck) Ruffo; brothers, Andrew, Frank, and Tom Ruffo; brother-in-law, William Lasky; sister and brother-in-law, Lena and Raymond Simeck; and two sons-in-law, Clifford Wright and David Matthews;

Anthony C. Ruffo is survived by his children, Linda Wright (Harry) Taylor, Dr. Sam (Sandra) Ruffo, Nancy (Carmen) DiRienzo, Christine Matthews, and Antionette (David) Mikol; 15 grandchildren, Dr. Wendy Wright (Brandon) Seigler, Dr. Anthony (Taylor) Wright, Kelly Wright, Nicole (Todd) Kariam, Anthony (Kristina) Ruffo, Dr. Eric (Jamie) Ruffo, Andrew (Nicole) Ruffo, Johanna (Tom) Burkhardt, Christopher (Jamie Canfield) DiRienzo, Stacey (Dusty) Root, Kimberly (Michelangelo) Belnome, Nicholas DiRienzo, David (Erin) Matthews, Lisa (Mike) Knewasser, and Jennifer Mikol; 29 great-grandchildren; sisters-in-law, Char-

lene Lasky, Edith Ruffo, Esther Ruffo, Jeanne Ruffo; and brothers and sisters-in-law, James (Josie) Simeck, and Joseph (Anita) Simeck; as well as several cousins, nieces, and nephews; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Anthony C. Ruffo 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 Anthony C. Ruffo, 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 Anthony C. Ruffo.