

## 2013-J3614

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Richard R. Abrams, 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, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body mourns the death of Richard R. Abrams, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community; and

WHEREAS, Richard R. Abrams of Lackawanna, New York, tragically lost his life to senseless gun violence the evening of August 25, 2013, at the age of 30; and

WHEREAS, A former All-Western New York basketball standout, Richard R. "Richie" Abrams was well-known throughout the Lackawanna, New York, community for his excellent sports skills on the basketball court and on the football field, as well as for his respectful manner and ability to get along well with others; and

WHEREAS, Richard Abrams was an athlete from the second he was given a ball to bounce or a pass to catch; and

WHEREAS, Richard Abrams was raised in Lackawanna; he was a graduate of Lackawanna High School where he played on the school basketball team, the Steelers, for four years; and

WHEREAS, As a senior for the Steelers, Richard Abrams was a fourth-team All-Western New York selection in 2002; that year, his 1,243 points put him among the top five players at the Steelers program; and

WHEREAS, Richard Abrams was possibly the quickest player in Western New York, and was counted on to carry the scoring burden for his team;

when Lackawanna needed a basket, he would find a way to get one, averaging, 18 points, 3.1 steals, and four rebounds per game; and

WHEREAS, Richard Abrams distinguished himself in his athletic endeavors and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community; and

WHEREAS, After high school, Richard Abrams went on to play ball for Erie Community College, and semi-pro football with the Lackawanna Dynasty and South Buffalo Celtics; and

WHEREAS, Richard Abrams was a dedicated, talented athlete, with tremendous team spirit and a commitment to excellence; he brought light and energy into the lives of everyone he touched; and

WHEREAS, Richard Abrams is survived by his parents, a son, two brothers, and a host of extended family and friends; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Richard R. Abrams 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 R. Abrams, 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 R. Abrams.