

## 2013-J4075

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Justice Thomas E. Mercure upon the occasion of his retirement after more than four decades of dedicated service as Appellate Court Judge, Third Department of New York State Supreme Court

WHEREAS, The quality and character of life in this Nation, and the great State of New York, is reflective of the purposeful lives and good works of those patriotic and civic-minded community members who dedicate their lives and careers to the service of others; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Justice Thomas E. Mercure upon the occasion of his retirement after more than four decades of dedicated service as Appellate Court Judge, Third Department, of New York State Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, Thomas E. Mercure, the longest serving Appellate Court Judge in the history of the Third Department, retired from the bench on Saturday, March 1, 2014; and

WHEREAS, For more than 25 years, Justice Thomas E. Mercure served as an Associate Justice on the Appellate Division, Third Department, of State Supreme Court; he has been a State Supreme Court Justice for more than 32 years; and

WHEREAS, The Third Department encompasses 28 counties in the three judicial districts from the Canadian border to the lower Catskills, and from the Vermont and Massachusetts borders to the Finger Lakes; and

WHEREAS, Justice Thomas E. Mercure, in every capacity in which he served, has left his permanent mark on the criminal justice community, and will forever be remembered as a determined, innovative, and genuinely concerned expert in his field; and

WHEREAS, A Washington County resident, Justice Thomas E. Mercure of

Hudson Falls, New York, began his judicial career in 1981, when he became the youngest County Court Judge in New York State; and WHEREAS, After graduating from Georgetown University Law Center, Justice Thomas E. Mercure began practicing law in Fort Edward, Washington County, in 1969; and WHEREAS, Between 1973 and 1976, he served as both Washington County Assistant District Attorney, and District Attorney, the post he held until being elected Washington County Judge; he was subsequently elected to three, 14-year terms on the State Supreme Court; and WHEREAS, Justice Thomas E. Mercure was the Senior Associate Justice on the Appellate Division until 2013, when he was asked to assume the responsibilities of Administrative Judge of the Third Judicial District, overseeing courts in seven counties, 53 judges, and more than 400 employees; during this position, he heard more than 21,000 appeals cases, and wrote more than 3,000 signed opinions; and WHEREAS, In 1994 and 2011, Justice Thomas E. Mercure was invited to sit on New York State's highest court, the Court of Appeals, for two cases, including one related to the World Trade Center terrorism; he also served as the Acting Presiding Justice for the Appellate Division, Third Department, in 2011 and 2012; and WHEREAS, In 1991, Justice Thomas E. Mercure was named to the Committee of Pattern Jury Instructions and was one of the several Supreme Court Justices tasked with developing jury-instructions for use in all civil trials across the State; and WHEREAS, Earning an exceptional reputation as a jurist over the years, in 2003, Justice Thomas E. Mercure was invited to join the New York State Federal-State Judicial Council as one of five state judges meeting regularly with five federal judges to help facilitate dispositions of cases that may involve either court system; that same year, he was also asked to sit as a member of the Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Judicial Nominations deemed Justice Thomas E. Mercure "well-qualified" for a seat on the State Court of Appeals and nominated him to join the State's highest court in 2006 and 2007; and

WHEREAS, As a member of the Ethics Commission for the Unified Court System, Justice Thomas E. Mercure spent more than a decade, including seven years as chairman, working to ensure all full-time judges and high-level court officials across the state abided by strict ethical standards; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Terry, and their five children, as well as 11 grandchildren, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, A singular asset to all of the citizens he has served in the community of the State of New York, Justice Thomas E. Mercure's life and career are a portrait of preeminence in public service, and present a role model for all who aspire to a career in public service; and

WHEREAS, From time to time, this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Justice Thomas E. Mercure upon the occasion of his retirement after more than four decades of dedicated service as Appellate Court Judge, Third Department, of the New York State Supreme Court; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Justice Thomas E. Mercure.