

## 2013-J4263

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Ralph C. Wilson, Jr., founder and owner of the NFL's Buffalo Bills, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to citizens whose lifework and civic endeavor served to enhance the quality of life in their communities and the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Born on October 17, 1918, in Columbus, Ohio, Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. died on Tuesday, March 25, 2014, at the age of 95; and

WHEREAS, Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. grew up in Detroit, Michigan, graduated from the University of Virginia, and attended the University of Michigan Law School; and

WHEREAS, At the University of Virginia, Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. joined the Phi Delta Theta fraternity; and

WHEREAS, Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. enlisted in the United States Navy and served his country in both the Atlantic and Pacific Theaters during World War II; and

WHEREAS, After the war ended, he took over the successful insurance business of his father and invested in Michigan area mines and factories; he eventually purchased several manufacturing outlets, construction firms, and radio stations, and founded Ralph Wilson Industries; and

WHEREAS, Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. distinguished himself in his profession and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community; and

WHEREAS, The founder and owner of the NFL's Buffalo Bills, Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. was also one of the founding owners of the American Football League, the league that the NFL merged with in 1970, and was the last of the original AFL owners; and

WHEREAS, Under the ownership of Ralph C. Wilson, Jr., the Buffalo Bills won four consecutive AFL Championships, 1990-1993, making them one of the most successful teams of that era; and

WHEREAS, Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. was inducted into the PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME on August 8, 2009; at the time of his death, he was the oldest owner in the National Football League; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. 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 Ralph C. Wilson, Jr., founder and owner of the NFL's Buffalo Bills, 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 Ralph C. Wilson, Jr.