

2013-K1059

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION celebrating the life and accomplishments of Niles Meriwether Davies Jr., farmer, philanthropist, and community leader

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, Niles Meriwether Davies Jr. died on March 4, 2014, in the 177 year old family farmhouse he dedicated his life to, at the age of 82; and

WHEREAS, Niles M. Davies Jr. was born in his family's farmhouse located on the farm he worked on his entire life on November 19, 1931, to Erica and Niles M. Davies Sr.; he was delivered by his grandmother, Dr. Lucy Virginia Meriwether, who was one of the first female doctors in the county; and

WHEREAS, In 1950, Niles M. Davies Jr. graduated from Nyack High School, and two years later, he received a degree from Cornell University School of Agriculture; and

WHEREAS, On April 14, 1962, he married Jan (Mandell) Davies and together the couple enjoyed 52 happily married years; and

WHEREAS, Niles M. Davies Jr. was a prolific member of the community serving on many charitable and volunteer organizations including 56 years as a member of the Congers Volunteer Fire Department, founding member of the Helen Hayes Hospital Foundation, the Savings Bank of Rockland County, President of the Rockland Center for the Arts, Rockland County Cooperative Extension, Rockland County Day School, and the Salvation Army; and

WHEREAS, In 1987, Helen Hayes Hospital opened the Jan and Niles Davies Learning Center, a new educational center for preschool children, due to

the generous contributions made by Jan and Niles Davies; and
WHEREAS, Niles M. Davies Jr. was a direct descendent of Meriwether Lewis of the Lewis and Clark expedition; he was also the grandson of world renowned artist Arthur B. Davies who helped bring the Modern Art Movement to The Armory Show of 1913, which introduced impressionists Picasso, Rodin, Degas, Matisse, and Marcel Duchamp to America; and
WHEREAS, Since the young age of 10 years old, Niles M. Davies Jr. worked on his family farm and lived a life of giving to those in need, citing Winston Churchill's quote of "You make a living by what you get and a life by what you give"; and

WHEREAS, Niles M. Davies Jr. is survived by his wife of 51 years, Jan; three children, Niles Meriwether Davies III and his wife, Anne, Lee Alan Davies and his wife, Christine, and Chris Davies Nevin and her husband, Jeff Nevin; and eight grandchildren, Shannon, Cailyn, Casey, Jeffrey, Niles, Thomas, Nicholas, and Matthew; as well as one sister, Sylvia (Davies) Diehl; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Niles M. Davies 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 celebrate the life and accomplishments of Niles Meriwether Davies Jr., farmer, philanthropist, and community leader; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Jan Davies, wife of Niles Meriwether Davies Jr.