

2013-J4759

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION paying tribute to Michael F. Bette posthumously upon the occasion of his induction into the Tech Valley Business Hall of Fame by Junior Achievement of Northeastern New York, Inc.

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize the achievements of citizens who made significant contributions to the public prosperity of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Michael F. Bette's remarkable career of professional and personal service to the Capital Region, New York State and the nation warrants the recognition and commendation of this Legislative Body; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to pay tribute to Michael F. Bette posthumously upon the occasion of his induction into the Tech Valley Business Hall of Fame by Junior Achievement of Northeastern New York, Inc. on Wednesday, May 7, 2014, at the Albany Marriott, Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, Junior Achievement of Northeastern New York (JA) is dedicated to educating students about issues relating to work readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy through the use of experiential, hands-on programs; working in partnership with the business and education communities, and through the support of community volunteers, JA brings the real world to students, opening their minds to their potential; and

WHEREAS, The Tech Valley Business Hall of Fame event is a special evening that celebrates the accomplishments of remarkable members of the local community who, in their outstanding careers are role models for youth, notable not only for their leadership in enhancing free enterprise, but also for their contributions to the community; and

WHEREAS, Michael F. Bette was a fixture in the Capital Region's building industry for nearly 50 years; as a founder of Barry & Bette, Inc.

and Barry, Bette and Led Duke, Inc. (BBL Construction), as well as

Chairman of the Bette Companies, he made his mark on the area's landscape and the business community; and

WHEREAS, Born in the Bronx, New York and raised on Long Island, Michael F. Bette attended Chaminade High School and then went on to further his education at Manhattan College; and

WHEREAS, Upon his graduation in 1959, Michael F. Bette began his illustrious career with D. Fortunato, a Long Island based contracting firm; when the company expanded to the Capital District in 1965, he was selected to co-manage the company's upstate operations with Robert Barry; and

WHEREAS, Subsequently, in 1973, the two established their own construction firm, Barry & Bette, Inc.; after ten years of success in the area construction market, they formed Barry, Bette and Led Duke, Inc. (BBL); and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous direction of Michael F. Bette over the next 26 years, BBL grew to become a nationally ranked general contracting firm with divisions in Florida, Texas, and Watertown; and

WHEREAS, In 1999, Michael F. Bette became Chairman of the Bette Companies and along with his sons formed, Bette & Cring Construction Group, First Columbia, BBL Florida and BBL Texas, and ensured the continuation of the family's construction and real estate development business; and

WHEREAS, Over the past five decades, Michael F. Bette was responsible for the successful delivery of over 8 billion dollars worth of construction development that include heavy highway, educational facilities, health care facilities, multi-family housing, high rise luxury condominiums, military facilities and general office buildings those public and private; and

WHEREAS, A licensed Professional Engineer and an active member of several regional building organizations, Michael F. Bette completed major work at The New York World's Fair, Empire State Plaza and numerous

colleges including Siena, SUNY Albany and Albany College of Pharmacy, as well as several hospitals including work at St. Peter's, Ellis, and Albany Medical Center; and

WHEREAS, In addition, he changed the skyline of Southwest Florida and constructed many of the high rise condominiums along the Gulf Coast; in the Midwest and Texas he specialized in multi-family projects becoming the fifth largest multi-family builder in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his distinguished career, Michael F. Bette was proud of the many close relationships and friendships he formed; he deeply valued every employee and was truly a mentor to many; and

WHEREAS, Michael F. Bette was elected to the Board of Trustees at both Manhattan College and Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and was presented with a degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from both institutions; and

WHEREAS, With a strong dedication and commitment to his community, Michael F. Bette was involved in many charitable organizations; he was past Board Member of The Hope House, The Twin Rivers Council, Boy Scouts of America, Albany College of Pharmacy and his alma mater, Manhattan College; and

WHEREAS, Michael F. Bette's life was a portrait of service, a legacy which will long endure the passage of time, and will remain as a comforting memory to all he served and befriended; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout was his wife of 54 years, Mary Ann, his five sons, Mark, Matthew, Peter, Kevin and Christopher, his two daughters, Ann Marie and Suzanne, and 16 grandchildren, all of whom felt privileged to be a part of his life and rejoiced in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to reflect upon those outstanding individuals who have made everlasting contributions on behalf of their fellow man and have truly left their mark on this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to pay

tribute to Michael F. Bette posthumously upon the occasion of his induction into the Tech Valley Business Hall of Fame by Junior Achievement of Northeastern New York, Inc.; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Michael F. Bette.

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