

## 2013-J4806

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Edwin L. Kij, 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, Edwin L. Kij of Orchard Park, New York died on April 17, 2014, at the age of 92; and

WHEREAS, On Dec. 8, 1941, the day after Pearl Harbor was attacked, Edwin L. Kij enlisted in the United States Navy and honorably served in the Pacific Theater as a Flight Engineer; and

WHEREAS, Upon the completion of his term with the Navy, Edwin L. Kij attended Canisius College and the University of Buffalo before graduating from St. Bonaventure University with a degree in Biology; and

WHEREAS, Edwin L. Kij distinguished himself in his profession and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community; he worked for several years at Bethlehem Steel as a railroad switch operator before he joined the Lackawanna Fire Department where he worked his way through the ranks to become Chief; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, he was the first Fire Chief in Lackawanna awarded appointment through civil service examination; and

WHEREAS, Edwin L. Kij, who lived for most of his life in Lackawanna, was a 20-year member of the Fire Department before his retirement in 1984; the Chief Edwin Kij Award for Outstanding Service was instituted this year in honor of his legacy, and will be given to an outstanding member of the Lackawanna Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, A proud member of his community, Edwin L. Kij was a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and the Grand Island

Knights of Columbus; in addition, he served as a Librarian at the Grand Island Golden Age Center, as well as commander in the Matthews Glab Post 1477, American Legion in 1964; and

WHEREAS, Edwin L. Kij's commitment to excellence, and his spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his first wife, Virginia Brzozowski Kij, who died in 1980, and his second wife, Rose Mancuso Kij, who died in 2007, Edwin L. Kij is survived by his son, Jim; his two daughters, Debra and Mary Beth; his two sisters, Helen Ginal and Doris Pantera; and six grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit, imbued with a sense of compassion, and comforted by a loving family, Edwin L. Kij 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 RESOLED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Edwin L. Kij, 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 Edwin L. Kij.