

2013-J5030

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Judge Robert Onofry upon the occasion of his induction into the Port Jervis High School Alumni Hall of Fame

WHEREAS, Individuals who distinguish themselves in their profession and in service to their community merit the highest commendation; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and fully in accord with its long-standing tradition, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Judge Robert Onofry upon the occasion of his induction into the Port Jervis High School Alumni Hall of Fame; his outstanding accomplishments were recognized on Sunday, October 13, 2013, at the 2013 Port Jervis High School Alumni Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Banquet, which was held at the Erie Trackage Manor in Port Jervis, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Port Jervis High School Alumni Hall of Fame annually recognizes individuals who have achieved personal success and have made a significant contribution to society, serving as role models to inspire current and future generations of Port Jervis students; and

WHEREAS, Surrogate Judge and Acting Supreme Court Justice Robert A. Onofry is the first ever Port Jervis resident to be elected to a county-wide judicial office; after graduating with honors from the New England School of Law, he became an associate with the law firm of former Congressman Benjamin Gilman until 1976 when he returned to Port Jervis to accept an associate attorney position with the firm of Cuddeback, Cuddeback & Wells; two years later, he became a partner and the firm name was changed to Cuddeback, Cuddeback & Onofry; and

WHEREAS, This distinguished man practiced law in Port Jervis for three decades, expanding the practice's base to include several other areas of law and trial work; in 1996, he embarked on his judicial career and was elected Port Jervis City Court Judge where he established the first Drug Court; and

WHEREAS, Twelve years later, Judge Robert Onofry was elected to a ten-year term as Orange County Surrogate Judge, and the following year he was appointed Acting Supreme Court Justice for the Ninth Judicial District, encompassing five counties; he currently serves in the dual capacity of Surrogate Judge and Acting Supreme Court Justice, where he presides over all Surrogate, probate, guardianship cases and civil jury trials in Orange County; and

WHEREAS, Robert Onofry has received extensive recognition for his judicial writings, and regularly serves as a guest lecturer and panelist for continuing legal education seminars for the New York Bar Association and the National Business Institute; and

WHEREAS, Judge Robert Onofry has been called upon to contribute his time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of himself unstintingly; and

WHEREAS, He is a former Rotary president, and has served on the boards of directors of the former Mercy Community Hospital, the Biondo Foundation, and the Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan Counties; in addition, he provided 25 years of service to the Port Jervis School District as a Board member, past president and school attorney; and

WHEREAS, Judge Robert Onofry has provided a tremendous legacy to Port Jervis High School in the form of an educational endowment he established to provide academic scholarships for Port Jervis graduating seniors; he is also responsible for acquiring a 5.7 acre parcel of land which now serves as the home of the Port Jervis Little League; and

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

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those individuals who enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and demonstrate a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great

Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Judge Robert Onofry upon the occasion of his induction into the Port Jervis High School Alumni Hall of Fame; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Judge Robert Onofry.