

2013-K1388

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Howard R. VanKirk Jr., 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, Howard R. VanKirk Jr. of Seneca Falls, New York, died on May 20, 2014, at the age of 83; and

WHEREAS, Howard R. VanKirk Jr. was born on July 25, 1930, the son of Howard Rogers VanKirk Sr. and Dorothy Lois Morehouse; and

WHEREAS, After graduating from Waterloo High School in 1948, Howard R. VanKirk Jr. worked for two years at Papec Machine before receiving his degree, cum laude, from Syracuse University with a dual major in publishing and history; and

WHEREAS, Howard R. VanKirk Jr. worked briefly for the NEWARK COURIER-GAZETTE before serving his country honorably as a member of the United States Army, stationed in Yokohama, Japan; and

WHEREAS, After completing his military service, Howard R. VanKirk Jr. served for eight years as reporter, photographer and assistant to the publisher at the CARTHAGE REPUBLICAN TRIBUNE weekly newspaper; and

WHEREAS, In 1964, Howard R. VanKirk Jr. became general manager of the SKANEATELES PRESS and MARCELLUS OBSERVER, working, for his former dean, Wesley C. Clark; four years later, he would return to his home county to become editor, and subsequently, editor-publisher of the SENECA FALLS-WATERLOO REVEILLE newspaper; and

WHEREAS, For 27 years, this esteemed newspaper man admirably served the interests of his community, helping his publication win numerous New York State Newspaper Association awards before retiring in 1995; and

WHEREAS, A member of numerous civic and professional organizations, Howard R. VanKirk Jr. served on the NYPA Board of Directors, the 33rd Congressional District Service Academies Selection Board, and as board member and President of the Seneca County Chamber of Commerce; in addition, he served on the boards of Seneca Community Players, Seneca County Arts Council and the Help Line Crisis Referral Center; and

WHEREAS, Devoted to historic preservation, he served two years as Seneca County Historian and was instrumental in obtaining a State historical marker honoring 19th-century women's activist and publisher Amelia Bloomer; furthermore, he helped produce a video presentation of Waterloo's historic founding and unbroken observance of Memorial Day for the Library of Congress Bicentennial archives; and

WHEREAS, Howard R. VanKirk Jr. distinguished himself in his profession and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable man'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 parents; and his three brothers, Keith, James and Mart; Howard R. VanKirk Jr. is survived by his wife Barbara; his seven children, Cynthia, Stephen (Lori), and Scott (Margaret); Elizabeth (Norbert), Mary, Zoe (Damon), Rebecca (John); his 15 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit, imbued with a sense of compassion, and comforted by a loving family, Howard R. VanKirk 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 Howard R. VanKirk Jr., 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 Howard R. VanKirk Jr.