

2013-J5806

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION paying tribute to the distinguished life and accomplishments of The Honorable Roy M. Goodman, former New York State Senator

WHEREAS, It is fitting and proper that this Legislative Body recognize and pay tribute to the life and accomplishments of a distinguished former colleague, New York State Senator Roy Matz Goodman, whose career, purpose, and commitment remain a great example of what a noble calling public service should be; and

WHEREAS, With sorrow and regret, this Legislative Body mourns the passing of Roy M. Goodman on June 3, 2014, and pauses to note significant accomplishments of his meritorious life; and

WHEREAS, Roy Goodman was a "larger than life" figure during his three decades as a Senator representing the 26th Senate District on the East Side of Manhattan, from which position he served as effective conduit to Albany State governmental leadership for several generations of Republican and Democratic mayors of New York City, was primary author of important changes in the New York City Charter, sponsor of over 1,200 laws designed to improve the lives of all residents of this great State, and was a public official committed to defining and solving problems as Chair of the Investigations, Taxation, and Government Operations Committee of the Senate; and

WHEREAS, In 1955, he married the late Barbara Furrer, and they had three children, his daughters Claire Goodman Pellegrini Cloud and Leslie Goodman, and his son, Randolph, all of whom survive him, along with six grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Roy Goodman was a leader of the moderate wing of the Republican Party in the State, a fiscal conservative with a social conscience who championed tax cuts and waged a war on government waste, while

insisting on keeping the social services safety net intact; and

WHEREAS, One of the great loves of his life was the arts, which he viewed as important for the development of the mind, soul, and humanity of people, and he was able to bring State resources to bear in support of expansions of the arts as Chairman of the Senate Special Committee on the Arts and Cultural Affairs and the leading legislative advocate of the arts in New York State, and a member of the National Endowment for the Arts Council, for which he was named Ambassador for the Arts by the National Endowment for the Arts "in recognition of his unwavering support of the arts and cultural affairs," and as a Commissioner of the National Commission of Fine Arts, by appointment of President Ronald Reagan; the first President George Bush later named him to the National Council on the Arts; and

WHEREAS, Roy Goodman was a Fellow for Life of the Metropolitan Museum of Art; a Patron of the Metropolitan Opera; Patron of the New York Philharmonic Society; and President of the Goodman Family Foundation, a philanthropic trust; a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and recipient of an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Pratt Institute and received honorary awards from: The Kennedy Center for Distinguished Government Leadership in Arts-in-Education; Carnegie Hall; the National Arts Club; the City University of New York; Brotherhood-in-Action; the Junior Chamber of Commerce; the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children; Odyssey House; the Ripon Society; the UJA-Federation of New York; the Hebrew University of Jerusalem; the Columbia Association For Promoting Well-being of Police Officers; Our Town; the Statesman Father of the Year Award of the National Father's Day Committee; Lenox Hill Neighborhood Association; the New York City Police Foundation; the Fire Safety Foundation; Playwrights Horizon; Catholic Interracial Council; Stanley Isaacs Association; New York Benevolence Council; Artists Fellowship; South Street Seaport; Town Hall; the New York Foundling Hospital; Family Planning Advocates of New York; New York

State Division of Human Rights; New York State Humane Society; Kennedy School of Government; and the U.S. Treasury Department for Patriotic Service; and

WHEREAS, As a member of the then-dominant moderate-to-liberal wing of the Republican Party that centered around former New York State Governor Nelson Rockefeller, U.S. Senator Jacob Javits, and former New York City Mayor John Lindsay, his talent and abilities were such that he was perennially considered as a likely candidate for mayor of New York City, for United States Senator, for a post as a cabinet officer, and for New York State Comptroller; and

WHEREAS, Roy Goodman grew up on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, graduated with Honors from Harvard College in 1951 and received a Master's degree with Distinction from the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration in 1953, and he then served as an officer in the Navy, and in the early 1960s, after a brief career in investment banking, joined the family business, becoming president of Ex-Lax Inc. at age 32, tripling its value in a short time and selling it for tens of millions of dollars; and

WHEREAS, He was hooked by one of the great loves of his life, the love of public service, working first on the 1965 John Lindsay mayoral campaign and then becoming Finance Commissioner and Treasurer of the City of New York and served in the Mayor's Super Cabinet in Mr. Lindsay's first term, positions he held with distinction until 1968, when he left City Hall to run for a vacant State Senate seat, which he won; and

WHEREAS, From 1972 through 1975, he served as Chairman of the New York State Charter Revision Commission for New York City which significantly revised City government structure, in a task accounted by most people as impossible as most of the panel's members were Democrats, who viewed him warily and fought among themselves, even as then-Mayor Abraham D. Beame opposed the commission at every turn, and yet Roy Goodman was able to bring the group into agreement behind a set of recommendations adopted

by city voters in 1975, at the height of the New York City fiscal crisis, with changes that greatly expanded the power of community boards, required balanced budgets and public disclosure of labor contracts, loosened mayoral control of spending and gave the city comptroller broad power to audit agencies; and

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WHEREAS, Roy Goodman ran for mayor of New York City in 1977, ultimately losing to Mario Cuomo and the mayoral winner, Edward I. Koch, with both of whom he became friends and the Albany go-between; and

WHEREAS, As chairman of the Committee on Investigations, he conducted investigations and inquiries that resulted in many changes in law and rules, including medical precautions at boxing matches and controls on investments by public authorities; Roy Goodman also identified emerging issues and took on very tough battles including convincing Albany leaders in 1984 to establish the first in the nation AIDS Institute to combat the emerging and still mysterious at the time AIDS crisis; he also was the first legislator to expose the scourge of crack-cocaine in the mid-1980s; Roy Goodman's Investigations Committee also issued a scathing report detailing the breakdown in the city's mechanism to build schools, which resulted in the creation of a new School Construction Authority to take over the task of school construction; and

WHEREAS, Senator Goodman's major initiatives included sponsorship of legislation to increase police patrols and toughen gun and ammunition controls; provide tax fairness for the owners of co-ops and condos;

expand women's rights to choose and increase protections against domestic violence; cut the state income and corporate taxes; provide better housing and tenant protection; protect children against abuse; combat discrimination; and spearhead City Hall efforts to increase state aid for New York City; and

WHEREAS, In 1981, Roy Goodman became the Republican Party chairman of Manhattan, a post he held for two decades, hosting Republicans from

around the country at party dinners and events; Roy Goodman built the New York County the Republican party into a powerhouse organization, which provided, as he put it many times the "high octane fuel" which led to the elections of Assemblyman John Ravitz and Councilmembers Charles Millard and Andrew Eristoff on Manhattan's East Side, who along with Congressman Bill Green and Senator Goodman formed the nucleus for years of moderate Republican leadership in government; and

WHEREAS, After leaving the Senate, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and Governor George E. Pataki appointed Senator Goodman President of the United Nations Development Corporation, an agency charged with building new offices for the United Nations and a park along the East River; and

WHEREAS, Roy Goodman's commitment to public service extended to his friendship and mentoring of numerous individuals who served with him and served his community and the people of the State of New York with intelligence and caring dedication, contributing significantly to the quality of life of his constituents and the communities of the State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the memory and accomplishments of The Honorable Roy M. Goodman; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to his daughters Leslie Goodman and Claire Goodman Pelligrini-Cloud, and his son, Randolph Goodman.