

2015-J758

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION celebrating the life and distinguished career of Nassau Supreme Court Judge Thomas Phelan

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is moved to publicly mourn the death of those distinguished citizens who would devote themselves to public service, demonstrating great courage and diligence in providing for the care and welfare of the citizens of their communities and this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Respected Nassau Supreme Court Judge Thomas Phelan of Oceanside, New York, died on Thursday, February 12, 2015, at the age of 69; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Phelan was born in Brooklyn, New York, and at the young age of three, the Phelan family moved to Oceanside, New York; and

WHEREAS, Prior to earning his law degree from New York Law School, Thomas Phelan received a Bachelor of Arts degree from The State University of New York at Stony Brook; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Phelan began his law career as an Assistant Nassau District Attorney, a position he held from 1971-1974; he was then employed as a Clerk for both a Supreme Court Justice and a County Court Judge for 10 years before going into private practice; and

WHEREAS, In 1991, Thomas Phelan was appointed a District Judge; five years later, he was elected to the Supreme Court and would be re-elected to another 14-year term in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Late in his illustrious career, Judge Thomas Phelan concentrated much of his energy on cases involving the guardianship of incapacitated people, especially the elderly; he strove to make sure senior citizens were taken care of properly; and

WHEREAS, Judge Thomas Phelan distinguished himself in his profession and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the

welfare of his neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, Judge Thomas Phelan's commitment to excellence, and his spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Proud of his Irish heritage, Judge Thomas Phelan was a founding member of the Irish Monument Committee, which was dedicated to raising funds to restore a deteriorating memorial in Mineola, New York, which commemorates the 1916 Easter Monday Uprising by Irish Nationalists in Dublin, Ireland against British rule; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Judge Thomas Phelan was both a distinguished Board member of the Society of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick on Long Island and Irish-Americans in Government Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Truly involved with his community, Judge Thomas Phelan was both the past President of the Kiwanis Club of Oceanside Inc., and the Former Assistant District Attorneys Association; and

WHEREAS, Known as a tough but fair judge, Thomas Phelan valued his family above all else; he and his wife, the late Noreen, were proud to raise their three children in Oceanside, just two blocks from the house he grew up in; and

WHEREAS, Judge Thomas Phelan is survived by three daughters, Meredith, Bridget, and Kelsey, one son, Thomas, six grandchildren, and two brothers, Tim and Tod; and

WHEREAS, Recognized as a remarkable and humane jurist, Judge Thomas Phelan genuinely cared about what was right and moral; his legacy extends far beyond his accomplishments as a successful judge; his integrity, unconditional friendship and selfless motivation to give of himself will long stand as a beacon for those who would aspire to service in their community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to celebrate the life and distinguished career of Nassau Supreme Court Judge Thomas Phelan, recognizing his loving labors and purposeful life,

and conveying its sincere condolences to his beloved family; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Nassau Supreme Court Judge Thomas Phelan.