

2015-J531

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of James T. McFarland, former New York State Assemblyman and Senator, and devoted member of his community

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to public servants of the State of New York whose lifework and civic endeavor served to enhance the quality of life in their communities and this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Our local government, our State and our country have endured and been made strong by generations of Americans who felt a sense of responsibility to their community, to one another and to their families; and

WHEREAS, It is with great sorrow and deep regret that this Legislative Body records the passing of James T. McFarland, of Amherst, New York, on Thursday, January 15, 2015, at the age of 84, and to note the significance of his purposeful life and accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Born in Buffalo, New York, on March 13, 1930, James T. McFarland graduated from Riverside High School in 1947, and received a bachelor's degree from Canisius College in 1951; he next earned his law degree from the University of Buffalo Law School in 1954; and

WHEREAS, After attaining his law degree, James T. McFarland proudly served his country as a member of the United States Army from 1954 to 1956; and

WHEREAS, Following the completion of his military service, James T. McFarland returned to Buffalo to practice law and began his political career by serving as a New York State Assemblyman from 1966 to 1972; and

WHEREAS, In 1972, James T. McFarland was elected to the New York State Senate where he rendered outstanding service to the people of the 59th District from 1972 to 1978; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed public servant served the residents of New York State well and always stood up for what he thought was right; he was renowned for having a way with words which few could equal, as well as for having a tremendous talent for storytelling; and

WHEREAS, In 1978, James T. McFarland joined the New York State Civil Service Commission where he worked for many years until his appointment to the New York Public Service Commission in 1987; and

WHEREAS, James T. McFarland worked diligently to advance economic, social and energy reforms for the communities of Erie County and New York State; and

WHEREAS, After retiring from government service, James T. McFarland concentrated on his private practice in Kenmore, New York, helping with community legal issues and pro bono work; he enjoyed such hobbies as golfing with his wife, and boating on the Niagara River; and

WHEREAS, James T. McFarland is survived by his wife of 56 years, Geraldine; their son, James Jr.; three daughters, Kathryn, Susan, and Lynne; and his sister, Joan Edwards; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to inscribe upon its records this tribute to the memory of James T. McFarland, that future generations may know and appreciate his admirable character, his many benevolent deeds, and the respect and esteem in which he was held; he will be deeply missed by all he served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of James T. McFarland, and to express its deepest condolences to his family; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of James T. McFarland.