

2015-J1024

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of former Senator Owen H. Johnson, one of New York State's longest serving lawmakers and noted community leader

WHEREAS, There are certain outstanding members of our community who, through their selfless commitment and dedication, have served to better the quality of life in our community and have had a measurable positive impact on the lives of its residents; 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, This Legislative Body wishes to express its sincerest sorrow upon the occasion of the death of former New York State Senator Owen H. Johnson, recognizing his distinguished record of public service as a representative for the people of the 4th Senate District; he died on December 24, 2014, at the age of 85; and

WHEREAS, Born on July 3, 1929, Owen H. Johnson, a resident of the Town of Babylon, proudly served his country as a member of the United States Marines from 1946-1948; and

WHEREAS, After being honorably discharged, Owen H. Johnson attended Hofstra College, graduating in 1956 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History-Political Science; in 1998, he was recognized by his alumna mater with a distinguished Honorary Doctor of Laws degree; and

WHEREAS, Senator Owen H. Johnson began his illustrious political career with the New York State Senate in 1973; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his 40 years of distinguished service, representing the people in the Town of Babylon and Islip in Suffolk County, Senator Owen H. Johnson sponsored legislation which created New York's

environmental protection fund; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Senator Owen H. Johnson helped to establish New York State's adoption registry, to secure funds to construct the independent league baseball stadium in Islip (home of the Long Island Ducks), and to create New York's Oak Bush Plains State Preserve in Suffolk County; and

WHEREAS, In 2003, Senator Owen H. Johnson was appointed Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee; in this capacity, he led the role of reviewing the Governor's budget proposal and developing the Senate Majority Conference's priorities for the state budget; and

WHEREAS, As Finance Committee Chairman, he also served as a member of the New York State Public Authorities Control Board and was co-Chairman of the Legislative Audit Committee; he was also Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on the Long Island Marine District; a Commissioner of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission; and Vice-Chair of the Legislative Commission on Government Administration; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his outstanding career as a New York State Senator, Owen H. Johnson chaired the committees on Transportation, Environmental Conservation, Social Services and Civil Service and Pensions; and

WHEREAS, On the National level, Senator Owen H. Johnson was a Past National Chairman, and a National Director of the American Legislative Exchange Council, the nation's largest individual membership organization of state legislators; and

WHEREAS, In honor of his extraordinary career, in 1995, Owen H. Johnson was the first recipient of ALEC's "Lifetime Leadership Award," which was created to recognize those members who helped shape the organization; and

WHEREAS, With a strong public spirit, Owen H. Johnson was a member of Cross of Christ Lutheran Church; he is survived by his wife, Christel; two children, Owen H. R. Johnson and Chirsten R. E. (Danny) Tymann; two

grandchildren, Eliza and Scarlett; and two brothers, Herbert and John; as well as one sister, Sigrid; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to inscribe upon its records this tribute to the memory of Senator Owen H. Johnson, 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 former Senator Owen H. Johnson, 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 Owen H. Johnson.