

2015-K550

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring the memory of the deceased members of the New York State Legislature, in recognition of their distinguished lives and careers in public service

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that the quality and character of life in this great Empire State is indelibly enriched by the faithful and caring efforts of those outstanding individuals who would devote their lives to public service; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body, representing the people of the State of New York, is moved this day to pay just tribute to the distinguished lives and careers of the deceased members of the New York State Legislature, and to honor the memory of these prominent citizens whose purposeful careers and worthy endeavors contributed to the quality and character of life in their communities; and

WHEREAS, Deceased members of the New York State Legislature include:

James J. Barry, Richard J. Bartlett, Donald R. Davidsen, Peter S. Dokuchitz, William Bernard Finneran, Sr., Vincent J. Graber, Sr., James F.

Hastings, James T. McFarland, Vincent F. Nicolosi, and Herb Sachs; and

WHEREAS, Born on Tipperary Hill in Syracuse, New York, on October 31, 1916, James J. Barry served his country as a member of the United States Navy during World War II until 1945; and

WHEREAS, James J. Barry married Elizabeth (Betty) Nielson in 1939, and together they had three children; after moving to North Syracuse, he ran for Village Trustee in 1954, and won; he was also elected Mayor, and served in that capacity for 10 years; in 1964, he was elected to the New York State Assembly, representing the 133rd Assembly District until 1969; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his wife, Betty, and two children, Patricia and Danny, James J. Barry is survived by his son, James, six grandchil-

dren, nine great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren; he died on May 27, 2014, at the age of 97; and

WHEREAS, Born in Glens Falls, New York, on February 15, 1926, Richard J. Bartlett ably served as a New York State Assemblyman representing Warren County from 1959 through 1966; in 1961, he was appointed as Chair of the New York State Temporary Commission on Revision of the Penal Law; and

WHEREAS, From 1973 to 1979, Richard J. Bartlett served as Justice of the Supreme Court at which time he was appointed as the first Chief Administrative Judge of the Unified Court System for the State of New York (1974-1979); he then held the esteemed positions of Dean and Professor of Law at Albany Law School from 1979 until 1986; it was in 1986, that he returned to his beloved Glens Falls, New York, and rejoined his law firm, BPSR; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his wife, Claire Kennedy Bartlett, his parents, George and Kathryn Bartlett, and sister, Mary Jane, Richard J. Bartlett is survived by his two children, Michael (Ann), and Amy (Robert), two grandsons, Patrick and Timothy (Rebecca), and one sister, Nancy Bartlett Horne, as well as numerous nieces and nephews; he died on May 6, 2015, at the age of 89; and

WHEREAS, Born in Flushing, New York, Donald R. Davidsen was elected to the New York State Assembly in 1986, serving as the ranking minority member of the Assembly Health and Agriculture Committees; in 1995, he was appointed Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets for the State of New York, a position he held until his retirement in 1999; and

WHEREAS, Prior to serving as an Assemblyman, Donald R. Davidsen earned a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in 1959; after proudly serving his country as a member of the United States Air Force, he returned to

the United States and opened a large animal practice in Canisteo, New York, where he practiced until 1987; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his first wife, Elizabeth Warner, and his

brother, Roger, Donald R. Davidsen is survived by his wife, Valerie Smith, whom he married in 2005; his brother, George (Nancy); three children, Karen (John), Kristine (Bruce), and Richard (Loriann); eight grandchildren, AJ, Christa, Mia, Daniel, James, Michael, Matthew, and Aleah; and seven stepchildren, 11 step-grandchildren, and one step-great grandson; he died on January 10, 2015, at the age of 79; and

WHEREAS, Peter S. Dokuchitz was born in Oneonta, New York, on March 9, 1928; he enlisted in the United States Navy in 1946, serving in the Submarine Service until his honorable discharge in 1948; and

WHEREAS, From 1973 until 1978, Peter S. Dokuchitz served with distinction as a New York State Assemblyman, representing the 113th District which included Herkimer and Otsego Counties; prior to his election to the Assembly, he served on the Public Service Board in the City of Oneonta and on the Board of Education of the Unatego Central School System; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his parents, and sisters, Taklia Harris and Marion Dokuchitz, Peter S. Dokuchitz is survived by his daughter, Diane (John); sons, Peter, David (Mary), Paul (Dawn), and Jonathan (Michael); three granddaughters, Elizabeth (Jeff), Natalie, and Alexandra (Jonathan); two grandsons, Gregory and Daniel; great grandsons, William and Thomas; and one great granddaughter, Emma Connolly; he died on July 20, 2014, at the age of 86; and

WHEREAS, Born in Brooklyn on February 14, 1936, to Irish immigrants, William B. Finneran, Sr. was a devoted public servant; he faithfully served the New York State Assembly representing the 89th Assembly District, part of Westchester County; and

WHEREAS, Elected in 1976, William B. Finneran, Sr. advocated for schools that served children with special needs and was honored as their legislator of the year; in addition, he was instrumental in savings Dobbs Ferry Hospital; and

WHEREAS, William B. Finneran, Sr. is survived by his devoted wife, Kathleen Wilde Finneran; his children MaryElizabeth, William, Jr.

(Melissa), and Christina (Paul); grandchildren, Seneca, Liam and William; and sister Mary Catherine; as well as his brothers Andrew, Brian and Peter; he died on November 30, 2014, at the age of 78; and WHEREAS, Born on May 14, 1931, in South Buffalo, New York, Vincent J. Graber, Sr. served with distinction as a New York State Assemblyman, .SO DOC A R550 RESO TEXT 2015

representing the 148th District, Western New York, from 1974 through 1994; and

WHEREAS, Recognized for his leadership as Chairman of the Assembly's Transportation Committee, Vincent J. Graber, Sr., affectionately known as Vinny, was an advocate for vehicle safety, highlighted by the enactment of two laws that were the first of their kind in the Nation--the Infant Car Seat Law in 1982, and the seat-belt requirement in 1984; and WHEREAS, Predeceased by his first wife, the former Grace Brown, and his son, James, Vincent J. Graber, Sr. is survived by his wife of 31 years, the former M. Patricia Murray; and nine children, Judy, Lynn, Vincent, Jr., Bobby, Daniel, Peter, Kevin, Chris, and Bill; as well as 15 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; he died on July 2, 2014, at the age of 83; and

WHEREAS, James F. "Jim" Hastings was born on April 10, 1926 in Olean, New York; he proudly served his country as a member of the United States Navy from 1943 until 1946; and

WHEREAS, James F. Hastings was both a member of the Allegany Town Board and the Justice for the Allegany Village from 1953 until 1962; the

following year, he was elected to the New York State Assembly, representing Cattaraugus County until 1965; following his service as an Assemblyman, he was also a Senator and a United States Congressman; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his father, Glenn; his mother, Ruth; two brothers, Glenn Jr. and Bill, his first wife and mother of his children, Barbara, and his second wife, Kathleen, James F. Hastings is survived by five children, Linda (Dale), Karen (Ed), James R. (Mary), David

(Barbara) and Tracy; 13 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and one cousin; as well as many nieces and nephews; he died on October 24, 2014, at the age of 88; and

WHEREAS, Born in Buffalo, New York, on March 13, 1930, James T. McFarland served in the New York State Assembly from 1966 to 1972, working to advance economic, social, and energy reforms for the communities of Erie County and New York State; in 1978, he became a member of the New York State Civil Service Commission, and in 1987, he was appointed to the New York State Public Service Commission and served in that role until 1993; and

WHEREAS, Prior to his public service, James T. McFarland earned his law degree in 1954; he then served his country as a member of the United States Army from 1954 to 1956, before returning to Buffalo, New York; and

WHEREAS, James T. McFarland is survived by his wife, the former Geraldine T. Walsh, and his four children, James T., Jr., Kathryn, Susan, and Lynne, as well as one sister, Joan; he died on January 15, 2015, at the age of 84; and

WHEREAS, Born on July 30, 1939, Vincent F. Nicolosi was a distinguished member of the New York State Assembly, representing the 25th Assembly District from 1973 to 1980, serving as the Chairman of the Assembly Insurance Committee and Governmental Operations Committee, and a Commissioner of the New York State Commission of Investigation from 1988 to 2009; and

WHEREAS, For over 38 years, Vincent F. Nicolosi was engaged in the practice of law with an emphasis on civil litigation; he served as a Queens Assistant District Attorney from 1967 to 1972; and

WHEREAS, Vincent F. Nicolosi is survived by his wife, Maureen, and his five children, Ryan, Maura, Carolyn, Vincent, Jr., and Robert; and nine grandchildren; as well as three sisters, Mary, Camille, and Nancy; he died on July 11, 2014, at the age of 74; and

WHEREAS, Born in Brooklyn, New York, Herb Sachs was a longtime Las

Vegas criminal defense attorney who represented clients in many high-profile cases; a true advocate for his people, if he believed in you and your cause, he would fight for you; and

WHEREAS, Prior to his esteemed career as a lawyer, Herb Sachs served as a New York State Assemblyman in the 1960s, representing Nassau County's 5th Assembly District; and

WHEREAS, Herb Sachs is survived by his three children, Rich, Cheryl, and Susan; he died on February 25, 2015, at the age of 83; and

WHEREAS, Every citizen in New York State has most certainly benefited, in one way or another, from the deep dedication, intelligence and passion these ten members of the New York State Legislature brought to their work as legislators and public policy-makers; and

WHEREAS, Their legacies will long serve as models of integrity and devotion to public service; it is with hope that future generations understand and appreciate the benevolence of these individuals, the merit of their causes, and the quality of their service to the citizens of New York State, that we celebrate their noteworthy services; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the memory of the 2014-2015 deceased members of the New York State Legislature, in recognition of their distinguished lives and careers in public service; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the families of the aforementioned Assembly members.