

2015-J2575

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION celebrating the life and distinguished career of
The Honorable Robert A. Contiguglia

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, Judge Robert A. Contiguglia of Auburn, New York, died on Sunday, May 31, 2015, at the age of 84; and

WHEREAS, A life-long resident of Auburn, Robert A. Contiguglia was born on February 27, 1931, to the late Anthony J. and Ida B. Contiguglia; he graduated from Auburn East High School in 1949, and then went on to earn his degree from Hamilton College, Clinton, New York, in 1953; and

WHEREAS, Three years later, Robert A. Contiguglia furthered his education by obtaining his Juris Doctor from Cornell Law School, Ithaca, New York; and

WHEREAS, After graduating, Robert A. Contiguglia proudly served his country as a member of the United States Army; after successfully completing Basic Training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, he was stationed in Poitiers, France, assigned to the Inspector General's Office; and

WHEREAS, Robert A. Contiguglia met and married his wife, the former Micheline Tierce, while stationed in France; and

WHEREAS, Upon his discharge, Robert A. Contiguglia and his wife returned to his hometown; at this time, he was appointed Assistant United States Attorney during the Eisenhower Administration; in this capacity, he prosecuted Federal civil and criminal matters; and

WHEREAS, Once his assignment was successfully completed, Robert A. Contiguglia entered into a private law practice with his father, Anthony, and his brother, Louis, forming the law firm of Contiguglia, Contiguglia & Contiguglia; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, Robert A. Contiguglia held the position of Assistant Attorney General for the State of New York under Louis Lefkowitz, handling New York civil and criminal matters; and

WHEREAS, Robert A. Contiguglia was then elected Supervisor of Auburn's 1st Ward to the Cayuga County Legislature, where he served as Chairman during the widespread flooding of Hurricane Agnes in 1972; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable man was recognized as the 1972 Christopher Columbus Commemorative Committee Man of the Year, and twice, he received the Key to the City of Auburn for his stellar service to his community; and

WHEREAS, In 1977, Robert A. Contiguglia held the esteemed title of Cayuga County Surrogate Judge; in addition, he presided over New York State Supreme Court, Cayuga County Court, and Family Court; in this capacity, he served with honor and distinction for 23 years, officially retiring in 2001, at the mandatory age of 70; and

WHEREAS, After his formal retirement, Judge Robert A. Contiguglia was selected by the Administrative Judge of the 7th Judicial District in Rochester, New York, to the position of Cayuga County Family Court Judge, a title he held until he retired for the second time; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his illustrious career, Judge Robert A. Contiguglia was the recipient of numerous awards and accolades for his dedicated service to the State of New York; in 2013, the Cayuga County Bar Association honored him with its highest tribute, The Liberty Bell Award, for his many years on the bench and adjudicating Family Court matters; and

WHEREAS, Judge Robert A. Contiguglia distinguished himself in his profession and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his neighborhood; and

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

WHEREAS, Dedicated to the well-being of his community, Judge Robert A. Contiguglia was a member of several organizations, including the Knights of Columbus, Sons of Italy, Italo Club, Elks Club, and the Cayuga County Sportsman's Club; and

WHEREAS, Remembered for his friendly nature, and expert shooting skills, Judge Robert A. Contiguglia enjoyed spending time with his family and friends, as well as hunting and fishing; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his parents, and his brother, William Contiguglia, Judge Robert A. Contiguglia is survived by his loving wife, Micheline; one daughter, Myriam T. (Frank) Contiguglia; a son, Robert A. (Kathleen) Contiguglia, II; two grandchildren, Robert A. Contiguglia, III and Madeline H. Contiguglia; and five brothers and sisters, Lilliana, Louis (Carol), Eda (Ralph), Richard, and John; as well as several nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Judge Robert A. Contiguglia leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all he served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to celebrate the life and distinguished career of The Honorable Robert A. Contiguglia, 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 The Honorable Robert A. Contiguglia.