

2015-J3253

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Clyde Melvin Cook, family man, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community

WHEREAS, It is with great sorrow and deep regret that this Legislative Body records the passing of Clyde Melvin Cook, noting the significance of his purposeful life and accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Clyde Melvin Cook of Fort Ann, New York died on Tuesday, December 22, 2015, at the age of 91; and

WHEREAS, Born on August 6, 1924, in Willow Glen, New York, Clyde Melvin Cook was the son of the late Irving Adelbert Cook and the late Gladys Evelyn (DeVoe); he grew up on a three-generation family dairy farm in Burnt Hills, New York; and

WHEREAS, Clyde Melvin Cook attended schools in Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake, New York, and Mount Pleasant High School in Schenectady, New York; he went on to graduate from the United States Naval Academy in New London, Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Clyde Melvin Cook completed County Sheriff's Executive Seminars under the Division of Criminal Justice Services of New York State in Albany, Lake Placid and Plattsburgh; and

WHEREAS, Prior to serving in the military, Clyde Melvin Cook met the love of his life and soon to be wife, Bernice T. Coryer, while skating at Brennan's Roller Skating Rink on Route 9 in Queensbury, New York; the happy couple married November 30, 1943, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Hudson Falls, New York; and

WHEREAS, Clyde Melvin Cook proudly served his country as a member of the United States Navy submarine service during World War II, and served as Torpedoman's Mate Second Class aboard the USS Capitaine; he served 27 months as an instructor of submarine operations in both the Atlantic and Pacific theatres; and

WHEREAS, Clyde Melvin Cook distinguished himself in his profession and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community; and

WHEREAS, After his honorable discharge, Clyde Melvin Cook accepted a position with the P. Lorillard Company of New York City as a sales representative for upstate New York; a position he held until 1949; and

WHEREAS, Clyde Melvin Cook then held the title of both Vice President and Sales Manager at Fort Ann Sales in Fort Ann; the dealership sold International Harvesters and specialized in tractors, trucks and buses; and

WHEREAS, In 1963, Clyde Melvin Cook and his wife next founded Clyde's Truck and Equipment and the Queen Anne Motel in Fort Ann; remembered as a compassionate man, he always cared about the welfare of other families, and was known to barter and accept a horse or mule as payment for a truck he sold instead of cash, making it possible for the buyer to purchase a much-needed vehicle; and

WHEREAS, During winter storms when travel to a restaurant from the motel was difficult, Clyde Melvin Cook would invite strangers staying overnight in the motel to dine with his family in his own home; he also actively helped others find employment; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the years, Clyde Melvin Cook held many positions in various capacities; he served as the Executive Director of the Washington County Economic Opportunity Council, Inc. for more than 21 years, and the Director of the Office for the Aging from 1979-1980, as well as the Sheriff of Washington County from 1973-1978; and

WHEREAS, Clyde Melvin Cook was also interested in local politics; from 1963-1972, he represented the town of Fort Ann as a Washington County

Supervisor; in addition, he served as Chairman of the Washington County Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, Clyde Melvin Cook was a member of the Advisory Board of Marine Midland National Bank of Troy in Argyle, New York, and a

member of Eastern Adirondack Economic Development Commission, Inc.; he also served on the advisory board for Adirondack Community College and was instrumental in initiating the day care program for students and faculty; and

WHEREAS, In 2010, Clyde Melvin Cook was honored to receive the Liberty Bell Award from the Washington County Bar Association for his outstanding service to his community; and

WHEREAS, After 38 years of distinguished service to the residents of Washington County, Clyde Melvin Cook officially retired on October 31, 2001; and

WHEREAS, Clyde Melvin Cook's commitment to excellence, and his spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Clyde Melvin Cook served his community by being actively involved in many organizations including the Elks Club of Whitehall, Knights of Columbus, Fourth Degree Council No. 201 Fort Ann, the Raymond Harvey Post of the American Legion, and the Fort Ann Fish and Game Club, as well as the Fort Ann Rescue Squad; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable man held the leadership positions of President and Governor's Aide for the Fort Ann Rotary Club; a faithful member of St. Ann's Catholic Church, he served on many committees including the Financial Planning Board, Pastoral Advisory Board and Ecumenical Council; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his brother, Louis; one sister, Mabel (Al); and a grandchild, Clyde Melvin Cook is survived by his loving wife of 72 years, the former Bernice Theresa Coryer; his two daughters, Patricia Ann (Peter), and Colleen Gay (David); a son, Christopher John (Grace); his former fresh air child, Irma Valentine; two granddaughters, Dr. Katie Lynn Jarvis, and Natalie Grace; three grandsons, Kevin David, John Christopher, and Joseph Dennis Cook of Delmar; as well as many nieces, nephews and cousins; and

WHEREAS, A true family man, Clyde Melvin Cook enjoyed spending time

with his wife, children, and grandchildren, having fun at the beach, visiting relatives, and partaking in get-togethers; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Clyde Melvin Cook leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all

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he served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Clyde Melvin Cook, family man, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Clyde Melvin Cook.