

2015-J4456

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Lawrence E. Bennett, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community

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

WHEREAS, Lawrence Edward Bennett, of Newburgh, New York, died on March 9, 2016, at the age of 92; and

WHEREAS, Born on September 15, 1923, in Roseton, Town of Newburgh, New York, Lawrence "Larry" E. Bennett was the son of the late James Harold and Rose Meehan Bennett; and

WHEREAS, On July 22, 1951, he married the late Rosemary (Cipriani) Bennett in Sacred Heart Church in Newburgh, New York; and

WHEREAS, Lawrence E. Bennett distinguished himself in his profession and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community; he was employed by DuPont, later Stauffer Chemical Company, Newburgh, from 1946 until 1977; and

WHEREAS, In 1973, Lawrence E. Bennett was elected to the Town of Newburgh Town Council and served as a Councilman from 1974 until 1978; he was then elected Supervisor of the Town of Newburgh in 1978 and served until 1982, when he was elected to the New York State Assembly, representing the 96th Assembly District; and

WHEREAS, Lawrence E. Bennett was elected to the Assembly, a total of six terms, serving until 1994; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable public servant was a resident of the Town of Newburgh his entire life until he relocated to New Jersey in 2012, after the death of his wife in 2011, in order to be closer to his children and grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Lawrence E. Bennett's commitment to excellence, and his spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, He was a member of Sacred Heart Church, Town of Newburgh American Legion, Newburgh Veterans of Foreign Wars, Newburgh Catholic War Veterans, UNICO, and the Irish-American Legislators' Society, and was for many years active in the veterans' organization of his Army division; and

WHEREAS, Lawrence E. Bennett served as a Sergeant in the United States Army, 86th Infantry (Blackhawk) Division, from 1943 until 1946, serving in both the European and Pacific theaters during World War II; he was awarded the Bronze Star with First Oak Leaf Cluster for heroic action in Vohberg, Germany, in April 1945, when he carried a wounded officer to safety under enemy fire after his company's medic was mortally wounded while attempting to treat the officer; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his wife, Rosemary, Lawrence E. Bennett was predeceased by his four brothers, James, John, Robert and Vincent, and his six sisters, Rosemary, Helen, Joan, Kathleen, Molly and Mary; he is survived by his son, Terrence M. Bennett and his wife, Ellen B. Tabor; daughter, Patricia Bennett Greer and her husband, W. Bradford Greer; sister, Alice Bowman; and five grandchildren, Stephen, Robert, Christian, Katherine, and Charlotte; as well as several nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Lawrence E. Bennett 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 mourn the death of Lawrence E. Bennett, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be tran-

mitted to the family of Lawrence E. Bennett.