

2015-J4729

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION celebrating the life and accomplishments of Jeffrey P. Kraham, former Broome County Executive, 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, Jeffrey P. Kraham of Hillcrest, New York, died on Friday, March 4, 2016, at the age of 66; and

WHEREAS, Born in Hillcrest on April 25, 1949, to the late Paul and Cora (James), Jeffrey P. Kraham grew up working the lunch counter at the Hillcrest Soda Spa, his father's diner and ice cream shop, where he absorbed the news and conversation of the day; and

WHEREAS, In 1960, at the young age of 11, Jeffrey P. Kraham made his first foray into politics at the Citizens for Kennedy headquarters in downtown Binghamton after hearing John F. Kennedy's call for volunteers of all ages, "from eight to 80," to help with his presidential campaign; and

WHEREAS, After graduating Chenango Valley High School in 1967, Jeffrey P. Kraham was elected to serve his community as a member of the Broome County Legislature, eventually becoming the youngest Legislative Chairman in New York State history; during this time, he also earned his

Bachelor of Arts degree in Business from Binghamton University; and

WHEREAS, Jeffrey P. Kraham proudly served his country in the United States Army Reserves Medical Supply Division from 1969 through 1974; he organized the Nation's first blood pressure screening clinic, making that now-ubiquitous, lifesaving health test available to the public for the first time in a setting outside a doctor's office; and

WHEREAS, Jeffrey P. Kraham distinguished himself in his profession and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community; and

WHEREAS, In 1980, Jeffrey P. Kraham started his first business selling bookcases and butcher block furniture; in 1983, Jeff and his wife, Wallis, turned a \$3,000 investment into a very successful retail enterprise with furniture stores throughout Upstate New York and Pennsylvania; and

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

WHEREAS, Jeffrey P. Kraham was elected Broome County Executive in 1996, ushering in an era of transformative leadership; his life as an elected official was marked by action, consensus building and progress and in governing, as in business, he never felt constrained by the status quo; and

WHEREAS, As County Executive, Jeffrey P. Kraham's flagship project was the construction of a state-of-the-art public library in downtown Binghamton; the library bears his name and is designed to educate and energize the community and ensure generations of residents have free access to the knowledge needed to prosper in life; and

WHEREAS, Jeffrey P. Kraham worked alongside Mayor Richard A. Bucci to land the substantial Binghamton University Downtown Center project, which became a catalyst for the last decade of revitalization in downtown Binghamton and the anchor institution for civic engagement in the Southern Tier; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his eight years in office, Jeffrey P. Kraham spearheaded the modernization of Broome County's airport, courthouse and criminal justice building, and oversaw construction of new senior centers in Endicott, Harpursville and Whitney Point; and

WHEREAS, In 2005, Jeffrey P. Kraham was appointed State and Counties

Liaison by Governor George Pataki; a lifelong Hillcrest resident, he continued to serve his community as an elected Councilman for the Town of Fenton from 2011 until his death; and

WHEREAS, In recent years, Jeffrey P. Kraham's love of travel inspired him to start a travel agency; he made close connections with his clients, many of whom became personal friends as he helped plan their dream vacations; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his brother, Michael, Jeffrey P. Kraham is survived by his wife of 32 years, Wallis (Transue); his daughter, Merissa; his son, Jared, and his sister, Karen; as well as several nieces and nephews and brothers- and sisters-in law; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit, imbued with a sense of compassion, and comforted by a loving family, Jeffrey P. Kraham 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; a wealth of knowledge and a wonderful resource for the Broome County community, his joyful presence will be greatly missed; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to celebrate the life and accomplishments of Jeffrey P. Kraham, former Broome County Executive, 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 Jeffrey P. Kraham.