

2015-K1360

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Robert J. Luongo, 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, Robert J. "Bob Barker" Luongo of Syracuse, New York, died on April 29, of 2016, at the age of 76; and

WHEREAS, Robert J. Luongo was born in the City of Syracuse to Frank and Angelina Luongo; and

WHEREAS, For more than three decades, Robert J. Luongo was the successful and well-known owner and operator of Bob's Barkers Hot Dog Stand in the Syracuse area, which he founded with his wife and daughters 36 years ago after a serious car accident ended his career in construction; and

WHEREAS, Along with his family, Robert J. Luongo operated several mobile hot dog carts in locations such as the Chase Lincoln Plaza on South Salina Street in downtown Syracuse, outside the Carrier Dome and on Irving Avenue near the Syracuse University Hill hospital complex, and outside the Home Depot and later the Gander Mountain store in Cicero; he also operated a permanent location on New Court Avenue in Lyncourt; and

WHEREAS, Some of Robert J. Luongo's trademarks were the famously delicious Hofmann hot dogs and Coneys he sold, his red roof cart, his consistently friendly service, and his big straw cowboy hat which drew a lot of attention, especially before and after Syracuse University football games; and

WHEREAS, Robert J. Luongo was often referred to as the "Hot Dog King," as well as the "Jitterbug King" because his love of dancing led him to

win the 1957 New York State Jitterbug Dance Championship; he continued to dance competitively and serve as a judge in the local "Dancing with Our Stars" contest in Syracuse; and

WHEREAS, Robert J. Luongo also was well-known for helping others in the community such as giving hot dogs to local homeless individuals, or back in February of 2014, he delivered more than 400 hot dogs free of charge to residents who were stranded without food or electricity when their senior living complex lost power; and

WHEREAS, For his many contributions, Robert J. Luongo will be recognized posthumously with the 2016 Onondaga County Senior Citizen of the Year Award on May 19, 2016, which his family will accept in his honor; and

WHEREAS, Robert J. Luongo enjoyed the people he served, his community, and his family and friends, who have supported his goals throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his wife, Janice, Robert J. Luongo is survived by his five daughters, Pauline Devendorf, Jacqueline Luongo-Ryan, Christine Bruzdinski, Laurine DePalma, and Linda DeMonte; as well as many grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Robert J. Luongo 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 Robert J. Luongo, 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 Robert J. Luongo.