

2015-J6205

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Frank J. Dolce, Jr., well-known and respected attorney, 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, Frank J. Dolce, Jr. of Buffalo, New York, died on Wednesday, June 1, 2016, at the age of 62; and

WHEREAS, A Buffalo native, Frank J. Dolce, Jr. grew up on the Lower West Side before his family moved to Amherst when he was a teenager; and

WHEREAS, Frank J. Dolce, Jr. graduated in 1971 from Williamsville North High School, where he starred in both football and track, before earning a bachelor's degree in political science and his law degree, both from University at Buffalo; he was his family's first-generation college graduate; and

WHEREAS, As a young attorney, Frank J. Dolce, Jr. worked for several firms, looking to specialize in personal-injury law; in 2004, he became a founding member of what would become Dolce Panepinto; and

WHEREAS, Frank J. Dolce, Jr. distinguished himself in his profession and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed man developed an expertise in both worker compensation and scaffolding law, teaching a course on worker compensation at UB Law School for 20 years; and

WHEREAS, Frank J. Dolce, Jr. was and remains an inspiration to us all; he was more than one of the city's best workers' advocates, he was engaging, warm, charming, intelligent, and a joy to be around; and

WHEREAS, Frank J. Dolce, Jr. was best known for his ability to make every person he interacted with feel that they were the most important person in the world; whether you were a construction worker, doctor, defense attorney, or legal assistant, the passion he showed in every conversation was genuine; it was that passion that he transferred into every person and group he touched in his life; and

WHEREAS, For more than 35 years, Frank J. Dolce, Jr. championed the cause of injured workers; and

WHEREAS, Frank J. Dolce, Jr. was passionate about the fight for workers' rights; he saw it as his duty to stand up for those who do not have the means to stand up for themselves; he was a founding member the Western New York Council on Occupational Safety and Health (WNYCOSH) in 1979, and remained active in the group throughout the rest of his life; and

WHEREAS, Frank J. Dolce, Jr. was very proud of WNYCOSH's many accomplishments over the years including working to ensure the passage of New York State's Right to Know Law in 1980, which affords workers the right to request information from their employers about hazards and health effects of workplace chemicals; founding the WNY Worker Center, an occupational and environmental safety and health training center that WNYCOSH has operated since 1980; and the recently established Center for Occupational and Environmental Medicine (COEM) of Western New York where he was also a member of the center's Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, His commitment to excellence, and his spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; he enjoyed volunteering his time and energies to youth sports and was instrumental in establishing fifth- and sixth-grade basketball teams for his sons at Park School and City Honors; and

WHEREAS, A wonderful father, Frank J. Dolce, Jr. closely followed all three of his sons' basketball, hockey, crew and soccer teams, and was a strong supporter of the GC Ballers and other youth basketball programs;

and

WHEREAS, Frank J. Dolce, Jr. lived life large, especially with his wife and three sons, whether it was giving law lectures that his son Frank translated in a rural Chinese province; golfing his way across Scotland with his son Michael; or camping in Algonquin Park with his son Sam, a gourmet experience that included steak and baked potatoes for dinner; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Frank J. Dolce, Jr. was an avid gardener, a strong Buffalo advocate and a devoted music fan; he and his wife loved their family's former summer home in Colden, and were supporters of Just Buffalo Literary Center, where they met; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his three loving sons, Frank, Michael and Sam, and his wife of 33 joyful years, Sue Mann Dolce, Frank J. Dolce, Jr. is survived by one sister, Susan Dolce Kiel, and one brother, Charles Dolce; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Frank J. Dolce, Jr. 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 Frank J. Dolce, Jr., well-known and respected attorney, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community, and to express its deepest condolences to his family; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Frank J. Dolce, Jr.