

2015-K1548

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of George Richard Arney, Jr., avid fisherman, Town Supervisor 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, It is with feelings of deepest regret that this Legislative Body records the passing of George Arney, Jr., a preeminent citizen whose distinguished public service and caring commitment will long serve as a standard to which others might aspire; and

WHEREAS, George Richard Arney, Jr. of Red Creek, New York died on January 23rd, 2016, at the age of 91; and

WHEREAS, George Richard Arney, Jr. was born on June 19th, 1924 to George and Georgetta (Garlock) Arney in Cape Vincent, New York; and

WHEREAS, In 1936, George R. Arney, Jr. and his family moved to Sodus Point, New York, where he attended the Salt Works School; during this time, he worked at his parents' General Store and sailed his small boat; and

WHEREAS, George R. Arney, Jr. attended Sodus Central School where he excelled at basketball, baseball, and soccer; after graduating in 1942, he became a radio operator in the Merchant Marines during World War II and throughout his tenure, he made many convoy crossings of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans on Liberty ships and tankers; and

WHEREAS, After the war, George R. Arney, Jr. returned to Sodus Point where he worked with his father fishing the waters of Lake Ontario; through the years, he sold both fish and bait at Arney's Fish Market, rented boats at Arney's Boat Livery, crewed a tug on the Erie Canal and Hudson River, and ran a bulldozer and did construction work as well as

drove a malt truck for the Genesee Brewing Company; and

WHEREAS, In 1954, George R. Arney, Jr. founded Arney's Marina where he built docks for boaters to rent and sold boats and motors; and

WHEREAS, When he was not working on the water, George R. Arney, Jr. enjoyed playing ball on semi-pro baseball and basketball teams and was a lifeguard at the Sodus Point beach; in 1948, he married the former Harriet Smith, and together, they built the foundation and environmental legacy for Arney's Marina in Sodus Point, New York; and

WHEREAS, George R. Arney, Jr.'s commitment to excellence, and his spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Dedicated to their community, George R. Arney, Jr. and his wife, Harriet selflessly contributed time to the youth of Sodus Point as coaches and coordinators of the Sodus Point Community Center and its youth services program; and

WHEREAS, A natural born coach and mentor, George R. Arney, Jr. love for the kids of Sodus Point and the role he played in shaping their future; his concern for the future generations of Sodus Point contributed greatly to the youth of the town and their development as cooperative citizens of the community; and

WHEREAS, George R. Arney, Jr. was also a proud long-serving volunteer at the Sodus Point Fire Department and was a faithful member of the Sodus Point Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, In 1966, George R. Arney, Jr. was elected Supervisor for the Town of Sodus, a position he held for 26 years; he held the title of Chairman of the Wayne County Board of Supervisors for seven of those years; in addition, he served as president of several statewide commissions and societies for county legislators and supervisors; and

WHEREAS, As a civic leader, George R. Arney, Jr. was instrumental in helping the Town of Sodus and County of Wayne grow in business and financially prosper while caring for the health and welfare of all its

citizens; he was always quick to acknowledge the assistance he received from the competent people he worked with on the Town Board, the County Board, and his collaborators in the State Government; and

WHEREAS, George R. Arney, Jr. was a man whose deep concern, ability to get things done, and easy way with people provided him with success in his leadership roles within his community and throughout the State of New York; he personally knew nearly every resident of the Town of Sodus and Wayne County; and

WHEREAS, After his much deserved retirement in 1990, George R. Arney, Jr. returned to the water where he mainly lived on his boat Terangi II, often taking it to Florida for the winters; after selling his boat, he lived on the corner of Central Avenue and Bayview Drive in the Village of Sodus Point; and

WHEREAS, Despite having seen the wonders of the world during his Merchant Marine service, and the State of New York and the United States as he traveled during his political and service life, George R. Arney, Jr. loved every moment of his time on the shores of Sodus Bay and Lake Ontario; he was a true Sodus Pointer and the proud son of a fisherman; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his former wife, Harriet, George R. Arney, Jr. is survived by his children, Chris and JoEllen, sister, Elsie, five grandchildren, Jaye, Kristin, Dan, Lisa and Katie and five great-grandchildren, Owen, Sophie, Claire, Norah and Reese; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, George R. Arney, 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 George Richard Arney, Jr., avid fisherman, Town Supervisor 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 George Richard Arney, Jr.