

2017-J4205

Senate Resolution No. 4205

BY: Senator KENNEDY

MOURNING the death of Norman DiDonato, Army veteran, astute businessman, 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, Norman DiDonato of Buffalo, New York, passed away on Monday, March 5, 2018, at the age of 84; and

WHEREAS, Born on March 23, 1934, to Italian immigrants in Greenville, Pennsylvania, Norman DiDonato earned his civil engineering degree from the University of Notre Dame in 1956; and

WHEREAS, Upon graduating, Norman DiDonato proudly served his country as a member of the United States Army; he was assigned to the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project where he worked with a group of engineers in the Pentagon to design bridge structures to withstand atomic bomb blasts; and

WHEREAS, After his discharge, Norman DiDonato was employed with Edward J. DeBartolo Corporation, a leading developer of suburban plazas

and shopping malls in Youngstown, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, Norman DiDonato then went to work for a commercial development company in Buffalo; the following year he joined his friends, Al Weber and James Renaldo, to form the engineering and architecture firm Weber, DiDonato, & Renaldo; and

WHEREAS, Weber, DiDonato, & Renaldo focused on highway, bridge, and architectural work, with Norman DiDonato specializing in the infrastructure aspects; two of their most important projects included the Erie Basin Marina and the Buffalo Convention Center; and

WHEREAS, Norman DiDonato became the sole owner of the company in 1989, renaming it DiDonato Associates; the company worked on various projects such as Try-It Distributing headquarters in Lancaster, improvements at Buffalo Niagara International Airport and the design for returning auto traffic to Main Street in downtown Buffalo; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous leadership of Norman DiDonato, DiDonato Associates was the recipient of numerous accolades including awards from the American Institute of Architects and the American Public Works Association; the firm was also named a Best Place to Work by Buffalo Business First in 2006, and a Top Place to Work by The Buffalo News in 2015; and

WHEREAS, Dedicated to his profession, Norman DiDonato was a vital member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and the National Society of Professional Engineers; and

WHEREAS, When he was not working, Norman DiDonato enjoyed spending time with his beloved family; he also liked to socialize with his neighbors at the Lancaster Country Club; and

WHEREAS, Norman DiDonato is survived by his wife of 60 years, the former Janet M. Eisler; two daughters, Toni DiDonato and Jody Bustamante; one son, John DiDonato; one brother, Robert DiDonato; eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren, as well as many friends and colleagues; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Norman DiDonato 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 Norman DiDonato, Army veteran, astute businessman, 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 Norman DiDonato.