

2017-J4270

Senate Resolution No. 4270

BY: Senator KAMINSKY

MOURNING the death of Bernard Kennedy, family man, co-chairman of the Board of King Kullen Grocery Co., Inc., distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is moved to publicly mourn the death of those prominent citizens whose lifework and purposeful endeavors have served to enrich and enhance the quality and character of life for others in their community and the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, It is with feelings of deepest regret that this Legislative Body records the passing of Bernard Kennedy, a preeminent citizen whose distinguished public service and caring commitment will long serve as a standard to which others might aspire; and

WHEREAS, Bernard Kennedy of Point Lookout, New York, died on Saturday, February 17, 2018, at the age of 92; and

WHEREAS, Bernard Kennedy was born to J. Donald Kennedy and Gertrude Cullen Kennedy in 1925; he was raised in St. Albans and Hollis, Queens, and graduated from Chaminade High School in Mineola, New York, in 1943; and

WHEREAS, In 1954, Bernard Kennedy earned his bachelor's degree in

business administration from St. John's University; he furthered his education by obtaining his degree from St. John's law school; and

WHEREAS, Bernard Kennedy proudly served his country as a gunner in the United States Navy during World War II; after his discharge in 1946, he returned to his hometown; three years later, he married the former Dorothy B. Bloodgood, and together, the couple were blessed with five children; and

WHEREAS, During this time, Bernard Kennedy began his distinguished career with King Kullen Grocery Co., Inc.; he quickly rose through the ranks, attaining the title of President, a position he held from 1984-1998; he also served as co-Chairman of the board until his death; and

WHEREAS, In December of 2012, Bernard Kennedy was instrumental in opening a new King Kullen supermarket in Island Park, New York, a village in Nassau County that was among the hardest hit by Superstorm Sandy; during this devastating time, the residents of the community truly enjoyed performing normal, daily tasks such as grocery shopping; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his work with King Kullen Grocery Co., Inc., Bernard Kennedy was a vital member of the Nature Conservancy and the St. John's University President's Council, and was a participant of the Board of Trustees of Long Beach Medical Center; he also served as both President and Chairman of Long Beach Medical Center's Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, In his numerous leadership roles at Long Beach Medical Center, Bernard Kennedy donated his own funds to the organization, and helped establish a dialysis center in 2010; during the aftermath of

Superstorm Sandy, he diligently worked to make all the necessary repairs to the hospital, and convinced officials to open this vital medical institution to the public as quickly as possible; and

WHEREAS, When he was not working or helping someone, Bernard Kennedy loved spending time with his beloved family; a man of many interests, he enjoyed being outdoors, whether it was fishing off the jetties in Point Lookout or swinging a club at the golf course; he also liked to listen to music and wrote his own operas; and

WHEREAS, Bernard Kennedy is survived by his wife of almost 70 years, Dorothy B. Kennedy; four sons, J. Donald (Ruthann) Kennedy, Terence P. (Elizabeth Coughlin) Kennedy, Bernard P. (Lisa) Kennedy, and Dr. Eugene C. (Michelle) Kennedy; one daughter, Maura K. LaBella; 10 grandchildren, Randy, Nora, Michael, Brian, Christopher, James, Patrick, Caitlin, Timothy, and Sean; and three great-grandchildren, Zea, Cassidy, and Emmanuella, all of whom will treasure his sense of humor, kindness, and compassion for his neighbors; and

WHEREAS, Over his meritorious life, Bernard Kennedy distinguished himself as a man of values and commitment and of sincere dedication and substantial contribution; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to pay tribute to the memory of Bernard Kennedy to celebrate his life, and to applaud his many accomplishments that future generations may know and appreciate his admirable character and the esteem in which he was held; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Bernard Kennedy.