

2017-J4832

Senate Resolution No. 4832

BY: Senator LARKIN

MOURNING the death of David C. Lustig, Jr.,
meritorious veteran, astute businessman, and devoted
member of his community

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

WHEREAS, David C. Lustig, Jr. of Walden, New York died on Wednesday,
April 11, 2018, at the age of 95; and

WHEREAS, David "Dave" C. Lustig, Jr. was born to the late David C.
Lustig, Sr. and Sophie Kaplan Lustig on August 15, 1922, in Walden, New
York; and

WHEREAS, After graduating from Walden High School in 1939, David C.
Lustig, Jr. earned his Bachelor's of Commercial Science degree from
Rider College through the G.I. Bill in 1948; later, he took
post-graduate classes at New York University; and

WHEREAS, David C. Lustig, Jr. enlisted in the United States Army Air
Corps in 1942; upon the successful completion of basic training, he was
selected to study engineering at Vanderbilt University; however, he

withdrew from the program in order to enter the European Theater after his cousin died in a P-51 fighter crash; and

WHEREAS, After being trained as a radio operator and gunner, David C. Lustig, Jr. flew on a number of combat missions over Germany, and occupied France in a B-17 bomber in the 384th Bomb Group of the 8th Air Force; and

WHEREAS, As the radio operator on the lead bomber on the final mission of the 8th Air Force in World War II over the Skoda Armaments Works in Pilsen, Czechoslovakia, David C. Lustig, Jr. sent the last active combat radio message of the 8th Air Force to headquarters in England informing them the mission was completed and the results were good; and

WHEREAS, After the War ended, David C. Lustig, Jr. continued to serve in the Army Air Force in Europe and Africa ferrying G.I.'s home on converted B-17's; he received his commission in the United States Air Force Reserve during the Korean War, and rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel; he officially retired from the Air Force in 1976; and

WHEREAS, This past summer, David C. Lustig, Jr. was the recipient of the French Legion of Honor at a ceremony in Central Park; the medal was commissioned by Napoleon Bonaparte and awarded for valor in battle in or over France; it was pinned on him by the French Ambassador to the United States; and

WHEREAS, David C. Lustig, Jr. also received the Freedom Medal from the President of the Czech Republic at a ceremony on the anniversary of the bombing mission over the Skoda Armaments Works; and

WHEREAS, In 1949, David C. Lustig, Jr. returned to his hometown to

join his father in the family business, Lustig's Department Store, which had been established by his grandfather, Carl Lustig, in 1883; and

WHEREAS, In 1958, David C. Lustig, Jr. took over sole ownership after his father passed away, and ran the business with his late wife the former Violet Rosenblum; the couple also established Walden Fabrics which his wife ran for 12 years; in 1960, David founded Lustig Realty, a real estate brokerage in Walden; and

WHEREAS, David C. Lustig, Jr. was a vital member of the Board of Directors of the Walden Savings Bank for 39 years, rising to the title of First Vice-President; he also served on the Walden Planning Board, holding the position of Chairman for 16 years; and

WHEREAS, Devoted to the community in which he lived and worked, David C. Lustig, Jr. held numerous leadership positions at various organizations including President of the Orange County Planning Federation, President and life member of the Military Officers Association of Orange and Rockland, and President of the Town of Montgomery Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, A true public servant, David C. Lustig, Jr. was actively involved with the Military Officers Association, the Walden Jewish Community Center, the Masonic Lodge in Walden, the Walden V.F.W., the Walden Historical Society, and the Walden Fire Department, Orange Hose Company No.1, where he served as President for two years; and

WHEREAS, For his steadfast and unremitting commitment to his community, David C. Lustig, Jr. was recognized by former New York State Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller; he was also honored for his service and the service of his family, to the Village of Walden by former Mayor, Brian Maher, which included renaming a street Lustig Court; and

WHEREAS, David C. Lustig, Jr. was also an accomplished author, writing two books entitled Capers and Cameos a memoir of growing up in Walden, and Initial Point - The Reminiscences of a World War II B-17 Bomber Crewman; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his first wife, Violet Lustig, and his two sisters, Arlene Lynn and Betty Besdesky; David C. Lustig, Jr. is survived by his present wife, the former Hedwig Nosko; two sons, D. Carl Lustig, III and M. Raymond (Susan Taylor) Lustig; one daughter, Heidi L. (Steven) Miller; and two stepchildren, Peter (Mary) Ulbrich and Margaret (Scott) Daunt; as well as four grandchildren, David S., Evan M. (Caroline), Andrew, and Rory, all of whom will cherish his memory; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, David C. Lustig, 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 David C. Lustig, Jr., meritorious 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 David C. Lustig, Jr.