

2017-J5467

Senate Resolution No. 5467

BY: Senator FLANAGAN

CELEBRATING the life and distinguished career of former Assemblyman Herman D. Farrell, Jr., a well-respected public servant and a credit to the institution of government

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those individuals of distinguished purpose whose lives have been committed to public service in the pursuit of excellence in the conduct of the legislative process in this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Herman D. Farrell, Jr. of Manhattan, New York, a 22-term New York State Assemblyman, died on Saturday, May 26, 2018, at the age of 86; and

WHEREAS, Herman D. Farrell, Jr., known by all as Denny, was born in Manhattan on February 4, 1932, to Herman Farrell, Sr. and Amy Gladys Paterson; the couple owned Farel Frocks, a manufacturer where the father and son duo designed cocktail dresses; and

WHEREAS, After graduating from George Washington High School in upper Manhattan, Herman D. Farrell, Jr. went on to take classes at New York University; and

WHEREAS, Prior to holding elected office, Herman D. Farrell, Jr.

worked in the Washington Heights office of Mayor John V. Lindsay before serving as the confidential aide to a State Supreme Court justice; and

WHEREAS, Herman D. Farrell, Jr. won his first election in 1970, becoming a Democratic State Committeeman for two years; three years later, he was elected as a Democratic District Leader; and

WHEREAS, Herman D. Farrell, Jr. was first elected to the New York State Assembly in 1974, to represent the 71st Assembly District which encompassed West Harlem, Washington Heights and Inwood; in 1979, he became the Chair of the Assembly Banks Committee; and

WHEREAS, Herman D. Farrell, Jr. championed many critical and landmark pieces of legislation during his time in the Assembly, with one of his first victories being the passage of the Neighborhood Preservation Companies Act, which allowed the state to fund community groups dedicated to fighting housing abandonment and providing tenant advocacy; and

WHEREAS, Herman D. Farrell, Jr. also proudly sponsored the Omnibus Consumer Protection and Banking Legislation Act, which included landmark protections for consumers in the auto leasing industry, established a toll-free line to the New York Banking Department that provided consumers with free information on credit card interest rates, fees, and grace periods, and required banks to provide low-cost lifeline checking accounts while barring discrimination based on residency when opening a bank account; and

WHEREAS, Herman D. Farrell, Jr. sponsored legislation that effectuated changes to state banking laws that would become models for federal legislation, including check-clearing legislation which requires banks to clear checks in a shorter timeframe and notify depositors on

how long it takes to cash checks, and legislation to require banks to disclose interest rates and other important information in clear, easy to read, concise chart form in all mail solicitations; and

WHEREAS, Herman D. Farrell, Jr. was also responsible for laws combating redlining by requiring stricter enforcement provisions of the community reinvestment act and legislation that monitored bank branch closings; and

WHEREAS, In 1994, Herman D. Farrell, Jr. was named the Chair of the Ways and Means Committee, a position he would hold until his retirement in 2017; he also held a number of other positions in the Assembly, including: member of the Black and Puerto Rican Legislative Caucus, the New York State Assembly Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force, and the American Irish Legislators Society of New York; and

WHEREAS, Herman D. Farrell, Jr. also held numerous positions in the Democratic Party in New York and nationally; in 1981, he was elected the County Leader of the New York County Democratic Committee, a post he held until 2009; in 1983, he was elected as the Vice Chair of the New York State Democratic Party, a position he held until 2002, when he was made the Chair of the State Democratic Party, a position he held until 2006; and in 1988, he was elected to the Democratic National Committee and was a member of the Electoral College multiple times; and

WHEREAS, During his long and distinguished career with the New York State Assembly and the Democratic Party, Herman D. Farrell, Jr. advocated for many important causes and the adequate funding of important social programs; and

WHEREAS, Upon the occasion of his retirement in 2017, the New York State Legislature saw it fit to honor Herman D. Farrell, Jr. by renaming

Riverbank State Park along the west side of Manhattan as the Denny Farrell Riverbank State Park, for his vital work in securing funding for the construction of the park; and

WHEREAS, Herman D. Farrell, Jr. is survived by his partner, Barbara Klar; and three children, Herman III, Monique Farrell-Guidry, and Sophia Ilene Farrell; as well as two grandchildren, Simone Adele Guidry and Madeleine Jones-Farrell; and

WHEREAS, Every citizen in New York State has most certainly benefited, in one way or another, from the deep dedication, intelligence and commitment that Assemblyman Herman D. Farrell, Jr. brought to his work as a legislator, loyal friend, and trusted advisor; he will be deeply missed and truly merits the grateful tribute of this Legislative Body; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to celebrate the life and distinguished career of former Assemblyman Herman D. Farrell, Jr., and to offer its sincere condolences to his family; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Herman D. Farrell, Jr.