

2011-J2443

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION paying tribute to the life and accomplishments of Murray Handwerker, distinguished citizen 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, Born on July 25, 1921, Murray Handwerker, the savvy hot dog seller who transformed Nathan's Famous from a Coney Island favorite into a major national chain, died at his home in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, on Saturday, May 28, 2011, at the age of 89; and

WHEREAS, A veteran of World War II, Murray Handwerker returned from the war in the 1940s to work for his father, Nathan, who had opened his original Coney Island hot dog stand in 1916; he immediately helped his parents open Nathan's locations in Times Square and Long Island; and

WHEREAS, A visionary entrepreneur, with a passion for both Nathan's and Coney Island, Murray Handwerker became chairman of Nathan's in the 1970s; he took the business public and rapidly expanded it through dozens of franchise deals throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Murray Handwerker expanded the Nathan's brand to supermarkets, turning its hot dogs into a household name; and

WHEREAS, Murray Handwerker sold Nathan's in 1987, but his passion remained for the original Nathan's at Surf and Stillwell Avenues in Coney Island, where he spent his childhood munching on hot dogs; his playpens as a child were the boxes in which frankfurter rolls were delivered; and

WHEREAS, A lifelong hot dog historian who wrote NATHAN'S FAMOUS HOT DOG COOK BOOK, Murray Handwerker's favorite dog was a plain frank on a bun; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his wife of 67 years, the former Dorothy Frankel, Murray Handwerker is survived by his sons, Steve, Ken and Bill, and by his brother Sol; he is also survived by several grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit, imbued with a sense of compassion, and comforted by a loving family, Murray Handwerker 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 pay tribute to the life and accomplishments of Murray Handwerker, distinguished citizen 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 Murray Handwerker.