

2013-J334

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Stuart M. Pearis, 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, Stuart M. Pearis of Vestal, New York, died on Friday, September 14, 2012, at the age of 74; and

WHEREAS, Born in Binghamton, New York, Stuart M. Pearis graduated from Binghamton Central High School in 1955, and from Yale University in 1959; as president of the Yale Band, he helped organize its 1959 European tour, the first such tour by an American university concert band; and

WHEREAS, Following graduation from Yale Law School in 1962, he served for two years as confidential law assistant to Judge Marvin Dye, senior associate judge of the New York State Court of Appeals, the state's highest tribunal; and

WHEREAS, He then returned to Binghamton in 1964, to join the law firm founded in 1929, by his father and the late Emory C. Resseguie; from 1966 to 1969, he was corporation counsel of the City of Binghamton, vice chairman of the Binghamton Urban Renewal Agency and attorney for the Binghamton City School District; and

WHEREAS, In 1966, Stuart M. Pearis was named Outstanding Young Man of the Year by the Binghamton Junior Chamber of Commerce; Governor Nelson Rockefeller appointed him to membership on the Commission on Eminent Domain in 1972; that commission drafted what became the New York State Eminent Domain Procedure Law; and

WHEREAS, For many years, Stuart M. Pearis was a partner in the law firm of Pearis, Kline and Barber; later, he was of counsel to the law firm of Coughlin and Gerhart until his retirement in 2011; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his father and Emory C. Resseguie, Stuart M. Pearis' former law partners included Herbert A. Kline, Richard A. Barber, Hon. Ferris D. Lebous, Hon. Catherine C. Schaewe, and Nancy E. Kline; he served all of his clients with great ability and integrity;

and

WHEREAS, Stuart M. Pearis's commitment to excellence, and his spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Stuart M. Pearis served as President of the Board of Trustees of Wilson Memorial Hospital in Johnson City, New York in 1973; was a former Lourdes Hospital Foundation Board Member; was a former member of the Rotary Club of Binghamton and a Paul Harris Fellow; and was a member of Temple Concord; and

WHEREAS, As former local chairman of the Yale Alumni Schools Committee, Stuart M. Pearis interviewed prospective students; he was a member of the Yale Club of New York City; and

WHEREAS, Stuart M. Pearis distinguished himself in his profession and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community; and

WHEREAS, Stuart M. Pearis' primary focus, however, was his family, who adored him; this remarkable man always found time to attend, with his wife, activities in which his children participated, and enjoyed family vacations on Nantucket, where they met, and in the Adirondacks; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his parents, Samuel H. and Celia (Levine) Pearis, Stuart M. Pearis is survived by his loving wife for more than 26 years, Jill (Justine) Higgins Pearis; his son, John P. Pearis; his daughter, Meghan M. Pearis; one sister, Patricia P. (Herbert) Kline; two

nieces, Wendy A. (Fred) Budlong and their children, Erik and Carl; and Nancy E. Kline; and one nephew, Robert S. (Dee) Kline and their children, Marena and Ariana; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Stuart M. Pearis 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 Stuart M. Pearis, 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 Stuart M. Pearis.