

2025-J152

Senate Resolution No. 152

BY: Senator GRIFFO

HONORING John C. Urtz upon the occasion of his 50 years of distinguished service to the Town of Lee, New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge the significant milestones in the distinguished careers of esteemed residents of this noble Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor John C. Urtz upon the occasion of his 50 years of distinguished service to the Town of Lee, New York; and

WHEREAS, For the past 50 years, John C. Urtz rendered faithful, conscientious, and valuable service to the Town of Lee, earning the admiration, esteem, and affection of his colleagues; and

WHEREAS, John C. Urtz learned appreciation for his community and the importance of public service from his father who was also an accomplished Town Supervisor of Lee; and

WHEREAS, In 1974, John C. Urtz ran for the position of Town Supervisor for the first time; he won the election by just eight votes then, but solidified his reputation shortly thereafter as a hardworking, dependable, accomplished elected official, ultimately earning his

reelection time and time again, amassing an impressive 50 years of dedicated service in this esteemed position; and

WHEREAS, In his role as Town Supervisor, John C. Urtz advocated for and gained access to a portion of Oneida County sales tax revenues to help fund necessary expenses; these revenues, coupled with careful resource planning, supported 44 consecutive years of no town taxes; and

WHEREAS, Further, John C. Urtz was pivotal in the construction of a new town hall on a reclaimed dumping site without taking on any debt from the project; he also enhanced Lee Town Park through numerous facilities improvements and youth programming; and

WHEREAS, John C. Urtz also supported securing new equipment for the Town Highway and Volunteer Fire Departments; additionally, he established a New York State Police substation within the town, further demonstrating his commitment to enhancing the safety of the town's citizenry while enhancing the overall quality of life for everyone under his jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Lee, under John C. Urtz's able leadership, will implement improvements to the water system to ensure continued safe drinking water for 1,300 local households; and

WHEREAS, In his capacity as Town Supervisor, John C. Urtz has continued to serve with loyalty, honor, and distinction, and has consistently been governed by a keen sense of duty and has always shown a unique grasp of human problems in his official acts; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his beloved wife, Eileen, and their family, Kelly Heffernan and her children, Samuel and Hayley

Heffernan; and Anastasia Urtz, J.D., her husband Louis Orbach, J.D., and their son, Benjamin Orbach, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his fruitful life and rejoice in his numerous achievements; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor John C. Urtz upon the occasion of his 50 years of distinguished service to the Town of Lee, New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to John C. Urtz.