

2009-J2716

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION paying tribute to the life and accomplishments of World War II veteran and former New York State Assemblyman Frank A. Walkley

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body that the quality and character of life in this great Empire State is indelibly enriched by the faithful and caring efforts of those who devote their lives to public service; and

WHEREAS, Frank A. Walkley of Castile, New York, who served in the New York State Assembly representing Wyoming County from 1964 to 1972, died on Saturday, June 6, 2009, at the age of 87; and

WHEREAS, Frank Walkley was born in Oneida and lived in Castile for almost all of his life; he graduated from Castile High School and earned Bachelor's degrees in Agriculture and Economics from Cornell University in 1943; and

WHEREAS, During World War II, Frank Walkley enlisted in the United States Navy and trained in the classified "Beach Jumper Unit" before being shipped to the Pacific Theater and stationed in the Philippines; he was honorably discharged in 1946, having attained the rank of Lieutenant; and

WHEREAS, After the war, Frank Walkley returned home to Castile, married his wife, the former Margaret "Pat" Curtis, and began working on the family dairy farm and apple orchard with his father; he also established both the Walkley Farm Equipment Company and the G. L. F. Agency in Castile with his father; and

WHEREAS, After Frank Walkley took ownership of the family farm, he began his career in public service; his first stint was serving as Castile's Justice of the Peace, and he later served as Town Supervisor for two terms; and

WHEREAS, In 1964, Frank Walkley was elected to the New York State Assembly, where he served until 1972; that year, he was appointed State Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets, a job he held until 1975; and WHEREAS, Frank Walkley was then appointed State Executive Director of Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Services; he retired from that position in 1988; and

WHEREAS, During retirement, Frank Walkley honed his skills as a wood-worker and built kitchen cabinets in the Castile Youth/Scout building; over the years, he and his wife, Margaret, volunteered for Habitat for Humanity in Americus, Georgia, and Homeland Ministries in several cities around the United States; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his wife of 63 years, Frank Walkley is survived by his children, Frank, Sarah, Jennifer, Donna and Margaret, as well as 13 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, and his two sisters, Glen and Betty; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit, imbued with a sense of compassion, and comforted by a loving family, Frank Walkley 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 World War II veteran and former New York State Assemblyman Frank A. Walkley; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Frank A. Walkley.