

2009-J2969

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Russell E. Pawlak, respected preservationist, 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, Russell E. Pawlak of Buffalo, New York, died on August 8, 2009, at the age of 59; and

WHEREAS, Born on Buffalo's East Side in the St. John Kanty neighborhood, Russell E. Pawlak graduated from Bishop Ryan High School, where he played football and ran track; he also played football as a running back at Culver-Stockton College in Canton, Missouri, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in history; and

WHEREAS, During the 1970s, Russell E. Pawlak served as Executive Director of the Broadway Fillmore Area Council and in community development at City Hall; and

WHEREAS, He then worked for 28 years as a Field Service Supervisor at the New York State Insurance Fund; this position took him to New York City for about 10 years beginning in the mid-1980s; and

WHEREAS, Russell E. Pawlak distinguished himself in his profession and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community; and

WHEREAS, After returning to Buffalo, Russell E. Pawlak, who grew up in the shadow of the Central Terminal and whose grandfather worked for New York Central Railroad, set his sights on reviving the dilapidated and badly vandalized station; and

WHEREAS, An avid preservationist who was married three times and had two children, Russell E. Pawlak played an instrumental role in resuscitating the Central Terminal train station; he also, in recent years, served on the Buffalo Preservation Board and the Broadway Market's Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, Russell E. Pawlak's commitment to excellence, and his spirit

of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, For eight years, he served as President of the Central Terminal Restoration Corp., before stepping down in 2008; the nonprofit organization raised a significant amount of funds to seal and stabilize the East Side landmark, enabling several organizations to hold events there including Albright-Knox Art Gallery and Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center; furthermore, Russell E. Pawlak helped popularize what has become an annual Dyngus Day celebration at the art deco landmark; and WHEREAS, Russell E. Pawlak, whose life was enriched by knowledge, both the kind acquired through books and from a life lived deeply, was married in June of 2009 to Bernadette Majewski, whom he met at an event at the terminal; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his mother and father, Edmund and Eleanor (Koscinski) Pawlak, Russell E. Pawlak, in addition to his wife, Bernadette (Majewski-Sliwinski), is survived by his children, Hadley (Scott) Horrigan and Dylan Roper Pawlak; and his stepdaughter, Kimberly A. Majewski; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit, imbued with a sense of compassion, and comforted by a loving family, Russell E. Pawlak 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 Russell E. Pawlak, respected preservationist, 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 Russell E. Pawlak.