

## 2009-J340

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION celebrating the life and accomplishments of Leo A. Hopkins, Sr., 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, Labor unions, through the integrity and dedication of their leadership, have assumed an essential and integral role in ensuring the welfare, safety and economic stability of the workers of this State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend the efforts of those individuals who distinguish themselves in service to the cause of working men and women in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Leo A. Hopkins, Sr. of Grand Isle, New York, a retired labor leader with Local 17 of the International Union of Operating Engineers, died on January 28, 2009, at the age of 74 at Kenmore Mercy Hospital; and

WHEREAS, Born on April 3, 1934, in Buffalo, New York, Leo A. Hopkins, Sr. graduated from Riverside High School; and

WHEREAS, Joining Local 17 of the International Union of Operating Engineers in 1951, Leo A. Hopkins, Sr. served as business agent and an officer in Locals 17, 17a, 17b, and 17c from 1966 until 1971; in 1974, he was elected business manager of Local 17 and all its branches, a position he held until his retirement in 1992; and

WHEREAS, Remembered by his fellow union members for his commitment to enhancing the working and living conditions for union members and their

families, Leo A. Hopkins, Sr. believed that benefits were just as important as hourly wages; he helped negotiate contracts in which union members set aside portions of their pay raises to fund their supplemental unemployment fund, health and welfare benefits, and pension plans; and

WHEREAS, To this day, hundreds of Local 17 members have pensions they can live on because of the efforts of Leo A. Hopkins, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, A fixture at Grand Isle Town Board meetings, Leo A. Hopkins, Sr. is survived by his loving wife of 46 years, the former Elizabeth L. Elmlinger; and

WHEREAS, Leo A. Hopkins, Sr. is also survived by a daughter, Kathleen Pratt; three sons, Leo, Thomas, and James; and a brother, Thomas; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to celebrate the life and accomplishments of Leo A. Hopkins, Sr., 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 Leo A. Hopkins, Sr.