

## 2009-J224

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION paying tribute to the life and accomplishments of former New York State Assemblyman H. Robert Nortz

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, Former New York State Assemblyman H. Robert Nortz, who demonstrated enormous and repeated efforts to make his State and the communities he represented a much better place in which to live, work and raise a family, died on Thursday, December 4, 2008, at the age of 76; and

WHEREAS, H. Robert Nortz was born in Lowville, New York, to Henry N. Nortz and Mildred Ulrich Nortz; he was educated in Lowville schools and graduated from Lowville Academy in 1950; and

WHEREAS, Continuing with his education, H. Robert Nortz graduated from Hobart College in Geneva, New York, in 1954; while attending Hobart, he served as junior class president, and president of both the Orange Key and the Phi Beta Phi honor societies; and

WHEREAS, He was a private first class in the Army Reserve when he entered the regular United States Army in August of that same year; upon the completion of his military service, H. Robert Nortz returned to Lowville, New York, and joined his father at his father's Ford auto dealership, Nortz and Virkler, Inc., and was active as a part owner for many years; and

WHEREAS, On December 28, 1957, H. Robert Nortz married the former Beverly Ann Henderson of Watertown, at Asbury United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, He began his political career in 1964 when he served as a county committeeman from Lowville, New York, and the campaign finance

chairman; four years later, he was elected as county chairman; and  
WHEREAS, In 1977, H. Robert Nortz was first elected to the New York State Assembly; throughout his 26 years of state service, he became an effective voice for Jefferson and Lewis counties until his retirement on April 27, 2002; and

WHEREAS, With his lengthy tenure, H. Robert Nortz rose through the ranks, serving as assistant minority whip for numerous years and ranking minority member of the Committee on Standing Committees; he also served on the Ways and Means Committee, the Reapportionment Task Force and committees on Consumer Protection, Housing, Child Care, and Elections; and

WHEREAS, First and primarily concerned with the well-being of his constituents, H. Robert Nortz supported many programs that helped to improve the economy of both the State and the North Country, to reduce taxes, and to protect the region's share of State aid to schools; and

WHEREAS, Known first as a real people person, H. Robert Nortz was able to recall the names of many, which earned him the respect and admiration of those he served so capably and with such dedication for almost three decades; furthermore, he was known by his listeners for his exceptional story telling; at almost every event and almost every conversation, he had an interesting and captivating tale to tell; and

WHEREAS, With a strong belief in his community, H. Robert Nortz served as chairman of the Lewis County American Red Cross Chapter, a member of the Lowville Elks Lodge and Lewis County Masonic Lodge 134, and chairman of the Lowville Housing Authority; and

WHEREAS, He was also a member of the Media Shrine of Watertown and Lowville First Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, H. Robert Nortz served on the advisory board of the Lowville branch of the then-National Bank of Northern New York, and as a director of the Black River-St. Lawrence Planning Commission; and

WHEREAS, In August of 1982, H. Robert Nortz was elected to the advi-

sory board of directors of Key Bank of Northern New York; in December of 1987, he and seven other members of the Northern New York Division Board of Key Bank became directors of the Central New York Key Bank Board; and

WHEREAS, A man of integrity with a great sense of humor and deep love for the North Country and its people, H. Robert Nortz is survived by his wife, Beverly H. Nortz; three sons, Nicholas W. Nortz, Scott R. Nortz, and Bradley E. Nortz; and two brothers, W. Peter Nortz and John U. Nortz; as well as four grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit, imbued with a sense of compassion, and comforted by a loving family, H. Robert Nortz 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 former New York State Assemblyman H. Robert Nortz; remembering his purposeful life and distinguished career of 26 years of public service on behalf of the citizens of Jefferson and Lewis counties and the State of New York, and extending its sincere condolences to his family; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of H. Robert Nortz.