

2009-K572

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of The Very Reverend Monsignor Stephen Dutko, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community

WHEREAS, The character and richness of religious and community life in this noble Empire State are nourished and fulfilled through the faithful concern and selfless devotion of those who committed their energies and purpose to the ministry of others; and

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, The Very Reverend Monsignor Stephen Dutko of Binghamton, New York, died on Friday, April 24, 2009, at the age of 92; and

WHEREAS, Monsignor Stephen Dutko distinguished himself in his profession and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community; and

WHEREAS, Monsignor Stephen Dutko's commitment to excellence, and his spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, A graduate of Union College, Cranford, New Jersey, and Christ the Savior Seminary, Monsignor Stephen Dutko was ordained to the priesthood on May 10, 1942, at St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church in Bridgeport, Connecticut; he was assigned to organize St. Mary's Orthodox Church in Buffalo, where he served as pastor until 1947; he was then transferred to St. Michael's Orthodox Church in Freeland, Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, While pastor of St. Michael's, Monsignor Stephen Dutko oversaw the building of a new rectory, the completion of the church and the construction of an educational center with a bowling alley; in September

of 1961, he assumed the pastorate of St. Michael's Greek Catholic Church in Binghamton; and

WHEREAS, While pastor of St. Michael's, Monsignor Stephen Dutko oversaw many projects, including the renovation of the church and the installation of new church bells and towers; in 1964, he spearheaded the establishment of what has become the annual Lenten pirohi project at St. Michael's; and

WHEREAS, Although he was affectionately known as "The Pirohi King" to many, the highlights of Monsignor Stephen Dutko's pastorate was his selfless outreach to those ill at home and in the hospital and his boundless love and service for the children of the parish; he was the spiritual father for many, served as director of the Diocesan Altar Boy Retreat for over 30 years and fostered 13 vocations to the priesthood, nine of whom were from St. Michael's; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his wife, Pani Mary Dzuback Dutko in 1990 and his son, Richard in 1967, Monsignor Stephen Dutko is survived by two sons and daughters-in-law, the Very Reverend Protopresbyter James S. and Pani Kathleen Dutko, and David and Cheryl Dutko, as well as his grandchildren, Richard, James, Christina and Matthew; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of The Very Reverend Monsignor Stephen Dutko, 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 The Very Reverend Monsignor Stephen Dutko.