

2009-J3805

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Donald K. Duso, 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, Donald K. Duso of Saranac Lake, New York, died on Sunday, January 10, 2010, at the age of 78; and

WHEREAS, Born on December 26, 1931, the son of Harry E. and Sylvia (Kimball) Duso, Donald K. Duso was a lifelong resident of the area and had owned and operated a business his father established in 1924, Crescent Bay Inc.; he sold and repaired boats and snowmobiles, rented cabins and ran a marina and general store on Lower Saranac Lake; and

WHEREAS, A member of the Adirondack Community Church in Lake Placid, Donald K. Duso distinguished himself in his profession and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community; and

WHEREAS, A dedicated member of the Saranac Lake Volunteer Fire Department since April of 1956, Donald K. Duso served with loyalty and honor for almost 54 years; and

WHEREAS, He held numerous titles within the department and was even elected by his fellow members to the esteemed position of Fire Chief many times including 1983-1986, 1988-1991, 2003-2005, and 2007 until his recent passing; and

WHEREAS, Donald K. Duso also served as chairman of the Saranac Lake Winter Carnival Committee for approximately 23 years; he was elected King of the Carnival in 1988; he had been actively involved in the Carnival since 1955, when he began cutting blocks of ice used to construct the Ice Palace, a task he performed each year; he used a gas-powered saw his father built in 1939; and

WHEREAS, In 1984, Donald K. Duso was selected as the Saranac Lake Area Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Donald K. Duso served his country as a member of the United

States Army during the Korean War; he then returned to Saranac Lake to join his father in the family business; and

WHEREAS, As a 10-year-old boy in the early 1940s, Donald K. Duso gained notoriety when he helped rescue Albert Einstein, a frequent summer visitor to Saranac Lake, after Einstein's sailboat overturned on Lonesome Bay; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his late wife, Sandy Duso; his brother, Harry Edward Duso; and his nephew, Tad Duso, Donald K. Duso is survived by his wife, Cherie, whom he married on September 16, 2005, in Saranac Lake; a son, Donald Kimball Duso; daughter, Valerie Ann Duso; three stepdaughters, Tracy Elizabeth (Michael) Degon, Theresia Golluscio, and Caroline Oesch; three grandchildren, Tyler Kimbal Duso, Michael Zalenski and Christopher Zalenski; and a niece and nephew; as well as his longtime secretary and friend, Tami Salls Donaldson; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit, imbued with a sense of compassion, and comforted by a loving family, Donald K. Duso 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 Donald K. Duso, 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 Donald K. Duso.