

## 2009-J3948

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of James W. Sturr, 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, James W. Sturr, Sr. of Florida, New York, died on Thursday,  
February 4, 2010, at the age of 89; and

WHEREAS, The son of the late Walter R. and Marion Millspaugh Sturr, he  
was born November 8, 1920, in Florida, New York, where he lived his  
entire life; and

WHEREAS, He proudly served his country as a member of the United  
States Air Force during World War II as a First Lieutenant, and was a  
member of American Legion Post No. 1250 for over 60 years; and

WHEREAS, A gracious man that touched the hearts of many, James W.  
Sturr, Sr. was always there to help people with his warm personality,  
smile and heartfelt concern; and

WHEREAS, He distinguished himself in his profession and by his sincere  
dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community;  
James W. Sturr, Sr. was the President and CEO of The Chester National  
Bank and Key Bank; and

WHEREAS, In his retirement years, James W. Sturr, Sr. became an aucti-  
oneer and enjoyed his work throughout the county; and

WHEREAS, James W. Sturr, Sr.'s commitment to excellence, and his spir-  
it of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including  
charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, He was a lifetime member of the Florida Presbyterian Church  
and was a Board Trustee with the Florida Cemetery Association, serving

as Vice President from 1958 - 1975, until he was elected President, serving until 1990; furthermore, he was an active member of the Florida Fire Department for over 64 years as a fireman, driver and President for 25 years; served as a Fire Commissioner for 20 years; was an original member of the Florida Firemen's Marching Band; a member of the Florida Volunteer Ambulance Corps for 25 years; and a member and President of the Board of Education for S.S. Seward High School for 25 years, where he was instrumental in the purchase of the property for the Golden Hill Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, In addition, James W. Sturr, Sr. was a charter member of the Florida Lions Club; a member of the Black Meadow Hunting Club, and Hill-top Hunting Club; and a founding member and President of the Board at St. Anthony's Hospital in Warwick, New York; in 2008, the Village of Florida honored him with the prestigious Life Achievement Award; and

WHEREAS, James W. Sturr, Sr. is survived by his loving wife of 69 years, Lillian Gallagher Sturr; his son, famed band leader, James W. Sturr, Jr. and his girlfriend, Barbara James; two grandchildren, Kenneth (Cathy) James, and Jennifer James; a sister, Dorothy Reed; and one brother-in-law, Thomas Gallagher; as well as numerous nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit, imbued with a sense of compassion, and comforted by a loving family, James W. Sturr, Sr. 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 James W. Sturr, 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 James W. Sturr, Sr.