

## 2009-J3975

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of James Zachary Patsalos, 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 Zachary Patsalos of Newburgh, New York, died on Friday, January 29, 2010, at the age of 85; and

WHEREAS, The first son of Zachary and Constance (Mingas) Patsalos, James Zachary Patsalos was born on December 29, 1924, at home over the family's candy and ice cream parlor, Patsalos Brothers, located on Liberty Street in Newburgh; and

WHEREAS, James Zachary Patsalos attended Newburgh schools, graduating from Newburgh Free Academy in 1942; upon graduation, he enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps, earning his pilot wings in 1943; and

WHEREAS, Once during his rigorous training program, James Zachary Patsalos' airplane became stuck in a spin, forcing him to make an emergency ejection, landing by parachute in a Mississippi cotton field; he visited the site 60 years later, and was given a hero's welcome by the local community; his Air Corps experience prompted many tales and reminiscences, usually shared with his dear friend, "Doc" West; and

WHEREAS, After proudly serving in World War II, James Zachary Patsalos returned to civilian life and entered Colgate University; he graduated in 1949, and is a member of the President's Club of Colgate in perpetuity; and

WHEREAS, After completing his studies, James Zachary Patsalos returned to his beloved Newburgh and began his career in the insurance business; he purchased the venerable firm of Shipp & Osborn, Inc., which he operated in the tradition of excellence and personal service until he retired in 1986; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his insurance career, James Zachary Patsalos became involved in real estate and purchased numerous properties in the towns of Newburgh and New Windsor during the boom years of Orange County

real estate; and

WHEREAS, James Zachary Patsalos distinguished himself not only in his profession but also through his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community; and

WHEREAS, An exemplary leader, James Zachary Patsalos was elected to the Newburgh Board of Education in 1963, and served for 28 consecutive years, four times as President; during this time, he advocated a tone of respect and cooperation between the Board, Administration, teachers, students and parents; and

WHEREAS, An avid athlete, James Zachary Patsalos enjoyed playing basketball, baseball and golf; he truly enjoyed his original Saturday foursome at the Powelton Club, including John Esterbrook, Bob Macfarland and Bill Volpe; and

WHEREAS, A beautiful light in the lives of many, James Zachary Patsalos loved his family, friends, community, and country; he was greatly loved in return and will be dearly missed by all those who knew him but never forgotten; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his sister, Athena Chumas, and his brother, Theodore Z. Patsalos, James Zachary Patsalos is survived by his wife of 49 years, Peggy-Ann (O'Neill) Patsalos; his three daughters: Constance Patsalos; Susan (Trevor) Huffard; and Elizabeth (Eric) Benedict; his brother, The Honorable Pano Z. Patsalos; sisters, Mary Brundage and Dimi

Walsh; and his five grandchildren: Trevor, Lynn, Kristen, Grace and Jimmy Benedict, as well as many beloved nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit, imbued with a sense of compassion, and comforted by a loving family, James Zachary Patsalos 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 Zachary Patsalos, 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 Zachary Patsalos.