

2009-J4680

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of IBEW Local 43 Business Manager William C. Towsley of Syracuse, New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to citizens of the State of New York who distinguished themselves in service to the cause of working men and women; and

WHEREAS, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 43 Business Manager William C. "Bill" Towsley of Syracuse, who died on Wednesday, March 10, 2010, at age 66, was such a man; and

WHEREAS, William C. Towsley was born in Syracuse, the son of Kenneth and Mary Towsley; he was a graduate of Most Holy Rosary School and served in the U.S. Navy from 1964 to 1968; and

WHEREAS, The son of a pipefitter who worked on the Geddes reservoir, William C. Towsley came to the labor movement naturally; he was an electrician and a member of the IBEW for 41 years; and

WHEREAS, He had also served many years as President of the Central and Northern New York Building and Construction Trades Council, which currently represents 16,000 workers and retirees; and

WHEREAS, A passionate Central New York labor leader, William C. Towsley was a man of vision who had a genuine concern for workers and the Central New York community; he fought for minimum wage increases, for low-income housing stock in the area, and for many other things which might not directly affect his membership but which he knew were good for the community; and

WHEREAS, Known and admired as a man of integrity and dignity, William C. Towsley understood the needs of employers as well and worked effectively with business owners and leaders, earning their respect as well as that of his union members; and

WHEREAS, William C. Towsley, in addition, worked tirelessly, generously sharing his time and vast expertise and experience on behalf of numerous community and charitable organizations; he was a valued member of several boards, including those of the Hospice Foundation of Central New York, the Onondaga County Industrial Development Agency, the Central New York Building Trades Association, Onondaga Community College and the

Community General Hospital Foundation; and

WHEREAS, William C. Towsley was predeceased by his wife, Noreen (Mullen) Towsley and his two brothers, John and Thomas Towsley; he is survived by his sons, Kenneth (Jennifer) and William of Syracuse; his daughters, Tracy (Nathaniel) Walker of Syracuse and Jennifer (Jeremy) Mettler of Rochester; his grandchildren, Donovan, Colin, Patrick, Bella, and Andrew; several nieces and nephews; and a legion of friends; and WHEREAS, William C. Towsley contributed greatly to the cause of working men and women in Syracuse, Central New York, and throughout New York State and leaves an inspiring legacy for others to follow; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to celebrate the life and accomplishments of William C. Towsley, recognizing his distinguished service to his profession and his community and expressing its deepest condolences to his family; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of William C. Towsley.