

2011-J21

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Charles W. Kelly, legendary reporter, editor and publisher, upon the occasion of his retirement after 56 years of distinguished service

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge the significant milestones in the distinguished careers of esteemed residents of this noble Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Charles W. Kelly, legendary reporter, editor and publisher, upon the occasion of his retirement after 56 years of distinguished service, to be celebrated on Friday, September 10, 2010; and

WHEREAS, For the past 56 years, Charles "Chuck" Kelly has been the publisher and editor of newspapers in Ogdensburg, Massena, Canton and Malone; he has delivered more than his share of papers after hours and on weekends when the delivery staff had gone home; and

WHEREAS, After graduating from St. Mary's Academy in 1954, Chuck Kelly worked as a sportswriter and general assignment reporter before serving a three-year stint in the United States Army; when he returned from overseas duty in France and Germany, he resumed working at the local newspaper, rising through the ranks to become publisher; and

WHEREAS, Chuck Kelly will retire as publisher and take on a part-time role with Johnson Newspaper Corporation's St. Lawrence County Newspapers division, which includes THE JOURNAL AND ADVANCE NEWS in Ogdensburg, the DAILY COURIER-OBSERVER in Massena and THE MALONE TELEGRAM; he will continue writing his popular "Kelly's Comments" and "Glance at the Past" columns in the ADVANCE NEWS; and

WHEREAS, The words "Chuck Kelly" and "north country journalism" are synonymous; his opinions have long set the agenda for conversation and

debate throughout the region and whether you agreed with him or not, he would always give you an open ear and fair shot; at the end of the day, the things he cared most about were the newspaper he loved and the city he called home; and

WHEREAS, Chuck Kelly looks forward to focusing on his column while stepping back from the day-to-day responsibilities of publishing; he takes pride in the quality of the newspaper's reporting and used his role to help bring jobs to the area; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, Mr. Kelly and others served on a committee to help found the Ogdensburg Boys and Girls Club; he has been a longtime promoter of the Ogdensburg Volunteer Rescue Squad and volunteer fire departments across the county; in 1959, he began chairing the Ogdensburg Recreation Commission where it developed skating rinks on Ogden Street and at St. Peter's Square and Winter Park; and

WHEREAS, Chuck Kelly mentioned he had always seen his role as someone who forces a public discussion of the issues facing the community, even when elected officials might prefer to avoid it; and

WHEREAS, A true asset to society, Chuck Kelly has been a tremendous source of support; his life story is a love story of a man and his community; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout has been his wife, Therese, who feels privileged to be a part of his life and rejoices in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Charles W. Kelly, legendary reporter, editor and publisher, upon the occasion of his retirement after 56 years of distinguished service, and to wish him continued success in all of his future endeavors; and be

it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Charles W. Kelly.