

2011-K542

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring the life of Abraham F. Breehey, distinguished public servant and labor representative

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, With deep remorse, this Legislative Body records the tragic passing of Abraham F. Breehey, on April 14, 2011, at the young age of 34; and

WHEREAS, Born on July 26, 1976, Abraham F. Breehey of Falls Church, Virginia, attended Seton Catholic Central High School in Binghamton, New York; he received his bachelor's degree from Siena College in Loudonville, New York, before earning a master's degree in Public Policy from the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy at the University at Albany; and

WHEREAS, Abraham F. Breehey distinguished himself in his profession and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of others; and

WHEREAS, At the time of his passing, he held the esteemed position of Director of Legislative Affairs for the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers in Washington D.C.; and

WHEREAS, Prior to joining the Boilermakers in 2004, he served as the Legislative Director to New York State Assemblyman Sam Hoyt from January 2000 to September 2001, and then as the Legislative Assistant to Texas Representative Lloyd Doggett; and

WHEREAS, A leading voice in the labor movement, representing the Boilermakers on issues relating to energy policy and climate change, and their impact on workers, Abraham F. Breehey often testified before U.S.

Senate Committees and represented the Boilermakers in United Nations Climate Change negotiations; and

WHEREAS, Also a graduate of the Trade Union Program at Harvard Law School, serving as Chairman of its Legislative Task Force, Abraham F. Breehey effectively advised the AFL-CIO Building and Construction Trade Department; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his distinguished career, Abraham F. Breehey was a champion for working men and women; his steadfast support and strong work ethic made him a true leader among his colleagues; and

WHEREAS, He was widely respected for his passion, intellect, and ability to build consensus across ideological and political lines; to mark the untimely death of this extraordinary man, members of the United States Congress arranged to have the American flag lowered to half-mast over the U.S. Capitol, as did the AFL-CIO over its headquarters; he was also honored by readings into the Congressional Record; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his numerous professional achievements, Abraham F. Breehey will be remembered for the love and passion he brought into the lives of his family members and countless friends; and

WHEREAS, A beautiful light in the lives of all those with whom he came in contact, Abraham F. Breehey's kind and generous heart, coupled with his warm embrace will truly be missed by all those who had the honor of knowing him; and

WHEREAS, Abraham F. Breehey is survived by his loving wife, Sonya (Walter) Breehey; his beautiful daughter, Abigail; parents, Carol and Raymond Breehey; parents-in-law, Timothy and Kathy Walter; a sister, Rachel Breehey Mollen and brother-in-law, Kevin Mollen; three nieces, Julia, Morgan and Sadie; one nephew, William; and his brother-in-law, Joseph Walter; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Abraham F. Breehey 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 honor the life of Abraham F. Breehey, distinguished public servant and labor representative; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Abraham F. Breehey.