

2011-J1978

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION paying tribute to the life and accomplishments of Judge Leonard E. Yoswein, a true public servant and civic leader

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize those individuals of preeminent character whose lives exemplified the highest ideals of humanity and whose lifework and civic endeavor served to enhance the quality of life in their communities and the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Judge Leonard E. Yoswein passed away on February 25, 2011, surrounded by his loved ones; and

WHEREAS, Judge Leonard E. Yoswein was born in Manhattan on September 8, 1920, and performed extraordinary work as a public servant in a variety of capacities throughout his 90 years; and

WHEREAS, Judge Leonard E. Yoswein devoted himself to community affairs at an early age, serving on the Tenants Council at Linden Houses, a public housing development in East New York where he lived with his family; and

WHEREAS, Judge Leonard E. Yoswein displayed a unique drive to improve each community he joined; as a waiter in the Catskills, his precocious talent for community organizing was evident when he organized his fellow employees into a labor union; and

WHEREAS, Judge Leonard E. Yoswein completed his studies at Brooklyn College in 1942, graduated from New York University School of Law, and was admitted to the New York bar in 1949; and

WHEREAS, Judge Leonard E. Yoswein served as a Captain in the United States Army Air Forces during World War II; he valiantly navigated planes beneath radar surveillance through dangerous mountain ranges in China and Burma, courageously delivering fuel and supplies to Allied forces; and

WHEREAS, Judge Leonard E. Yoswein was recognized not only for his outstanding bravery in battle, but also for his remarkable intellect, which contributed to the development of early long range-radio navigation systems; and

WHEREAS, Judge Leonard E. Yoswein was elected to the New York State

Assembly with the support of Governor Herbert Lehman and Eleanor Roosevelt; and

WHEREAS, In his capacity as State Assembly Member for Canarsie from 1961 to 1968, Judge Leonard E. Yoswein tirelessly fought to pass progressive civil rights legislation in New York State; he compassionately advocated for the equal treatment of some of New York's most vulnerable citizens as Chairman of the Assembly Mental Health Committee and as a proponent of improved access to adoption; and

WHEREAS, Judge Leonard E. Yoswein was elected to the New York Civil Court in 1969; and

WHEREAS, Judge Leonard E. Yoswein continued to contribute to humanitarian causes as Commissioner of the New York City Department of Rent and Housing Maintenance, where he ensured that public housing residents had sufficient heating during the Arab oil crisis in 1973; and

WHEREAS, Judge Leonard E. Yoswein served as Executive Assistant to the Mayor of the City of New York for Intergovernmental Affairs in 1975; and

WHEREAS, Judge Leonard E. Yoswein was elected to the Kings County Supreme Court in 1976, where he served for nine years as Administrative Justice of the New York State Supreme Court for Brooklyn and Staten Island; and

WHEREAS, Judge Leonard E. Yoswein was so invested in the power of law to help those in need that he became an Administrative Law Judge for the United States Social Security Administration at the age of 76; and

WHEREAS, Judge Leonard E. Yoswein was known as an inspiring role model to his family and friends, and as a regular donor to worthwhile charities in his own community and beyond; he was praised for his inexhaustible kindness, his warm sense of humor, and his determined desire to see the best in all people; and

WHEREAS, Judge Leonard E. Yoswein is survived by his beloved companion, The Honorable Sarah "Sallie" Krauss; daughter, Rebecca J. Yoswein; grandchildren, Kelly and Sean McGreen; sister, Renee Zeiger (Bernie); and sister-in-law Martha Yoswein; and

WHEREAS, Judge Leonard E. Yoswein enriched the lives of countless New Yorkers through his long career in public service; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to pay tribute to the life and accomplishments of Judge Leonard E. Yoswein, a true public servant and civic leader; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Judge Leonard E. Yoswein.