

2013-J128

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending legendary news anchor Bill Worden upon the occasion of his retirement after 35 years of distinguished service to WKTV

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body, that the quality and character of life in this great Empire State is indelibly enriched by the faithful and untiring efforts of those individuals who have helped shape the history of broadcasting; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend legendary news anchor Bill Worden upon the occasion of his retirement after 35 years of distinguished service to WKTV; and

WHEREAS, After more than 35 years as lead anchor at NewsChannel 2 and nearly 50 years in broadcasting, Bill Worden announced that he will retire from WKTV on Thursday, November 29, 2012; and

WHEREAS, Known as one of the longest-serving local news anchors in American television history, Bill Worden joined WKTV of Utica, New York, in March of 1977 as anchor of NewsChannel 2 at Six and Eleven; later in his career, NewsChannel 2 at Ten was also added to his anchoring duties, along with once serving as news director of the station; and

WHEREAS, Born in Herkimer, New York, Bill Worden grew up the son of a successful local businessman, whose travels took him, his mother and his sister to Indiana and Florida before returning to Utica where his father became a car dealer; and

WHEREAS, A United States Air Force veteran, Bill Worden served with a Top Secret clearance in the Atlas-F Missile program, during both the Cuban Missile Crisis and the assassination of President John F. Kennedy; upon discharge, he entered the radio business in Utica at stations WBVM and WRUN; and

WHEREAS, While working, Bill Worden attended Utica College and Mohawk Valley Community College, where he helped start the college's first radio station; in 1971, he took his first television position at KTVH-CBS in Wichita, Kansas, where he anchored the noon and evening broadcasts; in addition, he anchored the 6:00 and 11:00 news in 1973 at

WTVN in Columbus, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, While in Wichita, Bill Worden earned several awards for two bicentennial year documentaries in 1976, including one from the state's farmers for a half-hour documentary on Kansas' two major industries, meat and wheat; he was also cited for his work on an historic documentary, "The Gunfighters," including former Wichita Marshall Wyatt Earp, Billy the Kid, Bat Masterson of Dodge City, Kansas, and the Dalton Gang; and

WHEREAS, An accomplished drummer, Bill Worden played professionally across the country for several years with jazz and jazz-rock groups, including one national recording group; he has twice been a guest soloist with the Utica Symphony; and

WHEREAS, Bill Worden has joined the Mark Bolos Band and will be traveling with them; he is also working with a local businessman, pursuing the growing interest in internet radio; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Janna and their four children and 12 grandchildren, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Bill Worden has, throughout his career and purposeful life, served his community with integrity and devotion, continuously striving to meet the needs of his listeners through entertainment and enlightenment; 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 commend legendary news anchor Bill Worden upon the occasion of his retirement after 35 years of distinguished service to WKTV; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Bill Worden.