

2013-J695

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Dennis Holt, reporter, author and devoted member of his community

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, Dennis Holt died on Thursday, June 7, 2012, at the age of 77; and

WHEREAS, Dennis Holt was born December 7, 1934, in Wichita, Kansas, moving around the country with his family several times while growing up, first to Indiana and finally Alabama; and

WHEREAS, While an undergraduate student leader at the University of Alabama in the 1950s, he was active in the fight to integrate the university; and

WHEREAS, After Dennis Holt married, he and his new bride Susan Holt moved from Manhattan to Boerum Hill in 1971; and

WHEREAS, At the time, Dennis Holt was a public affairs executive in New York for Union Carbide, the same company for which his father worked; and

WHEREAS, When Union Carbide moved to Connecticut in the mid-1980s, Dennis Holt tried commuting, but decided to leave the company after a year; in the meantime, he had become active in his community, serving as president of the Boerum Hill Association in 1974; and

WHEREAS, After leaving Union Carbide, Dennis Holt held several short-term public relations assignments; and

WHEREAS, Michael Armstrong, publisher of the Brooklyn Phoenix newspaper in the 1980s, eventually offered Dennis Holt a position as a writer, then as a features editor; he would go to work for the newspaper on and

off for a period of six months or a year; and

WHEREAS, Dennis Holt distinguished himself in his profession and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community; and

WHEREAS, As features editor, Dennis Holt orchestrated the arts coverage, covering the Brooklyn Museum, BAM and other institutions, and winning the publication 20 to 30 awards; and

WHEREAS, From 1989 to 1993, Dennis Holt served as chief of staff for Representative Steve Solarz; and

WHEREAS, In 1994, Dennis Holt went to work for the Brooklyn Daily Bulletin, which later merged with the revived Brooklyn Eagle; at first, his role was that of a reporter, but after several years, while he continued to write stories, he began to focus increasingly on his "Brooklyn Broadside" column; and

WHEREAS, The "Brooklyn Broadside" column tackled local, national and state issues, occasionally mixed with personal reminiscences; Dennis Holt was deeply interested in the planning and development of what was called the Brooklyn Renaissance, but that ultimately was dubbed "the new Brooklyn"; and

WHEREAS, Dennis Holt's commitment to excellence, and his spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Dennis Holt is survived by his wife, Susan; his son, Matthew Holt; his daughter, Deborah Taylor; and two grandsons, Graham and Cooper; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Dennis Holt 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 mourn the death of Dennis Holt, longtime civic activist, reporter and

author; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Dennis Holt.