

2013-J925

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Colonel John Thomas Wildenberg, U.S. Army, retired, distinguished citizen 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, Colonel John Thomas Wildenberg, U.S. Army, retired, of New Windsor, New York, died on March 8, 2013, at the age of 69; and

WHEREAS, Born on September 25, 1943, to the late Christian and Monica (Van Ryzin) Wildenberg, John Thomas Wildenberg proudly served his country for 26 years as a United States Army Engineer; and

WHEREAS, John Thomas Wildenberg enlisted in the United States Army to serve in Vietnam; he was an Officer Candidate School graduate and is honored at the U.S. Army Engineer Officer Hall of Fame at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; and

WHEREAS, Colonel John Thomas Wildenberg's military awards and decorations included the: Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Army Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Service Star, Vietnam Service Medal with four Service Stars, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Legion of Merit with one oak leaf cluster, Army Service Ribbon and four Overseas Service Ribbons; and

WHEREAS, Repeatedly recognized for his continued service to the community after his retirement from the United States Army, John Thomas Wildenberg loved to fish and play golf; above all, he loved to be with people; he had a great love for life, and a passion for helping others;

and

WHEREAS, John Thomas Wildenberg is survived by his loving wife of more than 20 years, Geri; his children, Jacquie (Mike); Scott (Wendy); Jeffe (Wendy); Karrie; Gregg (Mary); Christine (Steve); and Larry (Sue); and by 12 grandchildren: Grace, Halle; Nathan, Evan, Isaiah, Tyler, Alexis, Jessica, Riley, Elijah, Harper and Elliot; and

WHEREAS, John Thomas Wildenberg is also survived by his sisters: Barbara (Gerald) Ferguson, Mary (Gerald) Schumacher, Monica (Vernon) Meulemans, Anne (Doug) Stangel, and brother, Jim (Donna) Wildenberg, as well as by numerous nieces and nephews; he was preceded in death by his son, Chris, and grandson, Peyton; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, John Thomas Wildenberg 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; he will be remembered as someone who made a positive difference in the lives of others; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Colonel John Thomas Wildenberg, U.S. Army, retired, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Colonel John Thomas Wildenberg.