

## 2013-J1013

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Thomas W. Roach, Jr., distinguished citizen and dedicated 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, Thomas W. Roach, Jr., of New Paltz, New York, died on Wednesday, March 6, 2013, at the age of 81; and

WHEREAS, Born on June 12, 1931, in Kingston, New York, Thomas W. Roach, Jr. graduated from Kingston High School in 1948 and from Villanova University in 1952; and

WHEREAS, After serving his country during the Korean War from 1952-54 in the United States Marine Corps, where he attained the rank of Captain, Thomas W. Roach, Jr. worked for 30 years as a life insurance agent, financial planning agent, and manager for several life insurance companies; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Thomas W. Roach, Jr. served as Commissioner of Social Services for Ulster County for 12 years; he also served his town and the surrounding communities on the Ulster County Legislature from 1974 to 1983, during which time he was Minority Leader and later, Chairman; and

WHEREAS, Since his retirement in 1974, Thomas W. Roach, Jr. served on several boards of not-for-profit agencies including the: Ulster County Industrial Development Agency, Mid-Hudson Family Health Institute, Chairman and Member of the William B. Hoyt Memorial Children and Family Trust Fund, Chairman and Member of Advisory Board for Commissioners of the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, Board Member of the Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy, Home Visiting Council

of the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, former President of the Ulster County Chapter of the American Cancer Society, Chairman of the United Way Emergency Food and Shelter Program Board, and Children's Annex; and

WHEREAS, Among the many awards received by Thomas W. Roach, Jr. are the: Saint Cabrini Humanitarian Award, Commissioner's Award from the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Distinguished Citizen Award from The Boy Scouts of America; and

WHEREAS, Thomas W. Roach, Jr. was a member of the Parish of St. Joseph's Church in New Paltz, where he served as past President of the Parish Council and Eucharist Minister; and

WHEREAS, Thomas W. Roach, Jr. is survived by his wife, Audrey (Aldridge) Roach, their children: Jane and John Winters, Neal O'Reilly, Tom and Nancy Roach, Brian and Brenda Roach, Kathleen and Neal Kenslea, Mary Beth and Joe Grasso; and by eighteen grandchildren: Keith, Meghan, Melissa, Patrick, Kyle, Michael, Lauren, Jessica, Kayla, Jacob, Danny, David, Sara, Dylan, Erin, Jack, Maggie, and Sean; and

WHEREAS, Thomas W. Roach, Jr. is also survived by one great-grandson: Nolan; three sisters and their husbands: Catherine and Joseph McGrane, Cornelia and Edward Gallagher, and Mariema and Joseph Diaguardi; two brothers: Reverend John Roach and Charles (Mary) Roach; and by many nieces and nephews; he was predeceased by a daughter, Peg O'Reilly; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit, imbued with a sense of compassion, and comforted by a loving family, Thomas W. Roach, Jr. 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 Thomas W. Roach, Jr. 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 Thomas W. Roach, Jr.