

2015-J62

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Carleton Mabee posthumously upon the occasion of winning a Pulitzer Prize for his biography THE AMERICAN LEONARDO: A LIFE OF SAMUEL F.B. MORSE

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, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Carleton Mabee posthumously upon the occasion of winning a Pulitzer Prize in 1944 for his biography entitled THE AMERICAN LEONARDO: A LIFE OF SAMUEL F.B. MORSE; and

WHEREAS, Born on December 25, 1914, in Shanghai, China, Carleton Mabee was raised in Lewiston, Maine; and

WHEREAS, A graduate of Bates College in 1936, Carleton Mabee attended Columbia University where he received a master's degree in 1938, and a doctorate in 1942; and

WHEREAS, An Ulster County, New York, historian, Carleton Mabee spent his career focused on American social history, while also forging an independent path in politics and scholarship; and

WHEREAS, During World War II, Carleton Mabee performed civilian public service work, including a stint as an attendant in mental hospitals; and

WHEREAS, After the war, Carleton Mabee served as a relief worker in Vienna with the American Friends Service Committee; he then joined the faculty of Olivet College in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, During his graduate studies at Columbia University, Carleton Mabee was under the guidance of a fellow Pulitzer-winning historian who encouraged his interest in Samuel F.B. Morse; the result was his publi-

cation in 1943 of THE AMERICAN LEONARDO: A LIFE OF SAMUEL F. B. MORSE;
and

WHEREAS, Carleton Mabee married Norma Dierking in 1945; he and his family moved to a farm in Potsdam, New York, in the 1950s, and he taught at Clarkson College of Technology; subsequently, he chaired the department of humanities and social sciences at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Indiana; and

WHEREAS, In 1965, Carleton Mabee joined SUNY New Paltz where he taught history; he retired in 1980 after many years of distinguished service;
and

WHEREAS, In addition to winning the Pulitzer Prize for his book, this incredible man wrote a shelf of well-regarded books including THE SEAWAY STORY; BLACK FREEDOM: THE NONVIOLENT ABOLITIONISTS FROM 1830 THROUGH THE CIVIL WAR; and SOJOURNER TRUTH: SLAVE, PROPHET, LEGEND; and
WHEREAS, Furthermore, Carleton Mabee wrote several histories focused on the Hudson Valley of Upstate New York including PROMISED LAND in 2008, about Father Divine, the black spiritual leader who started interracial communities in Ulster County, New York, beginning in the 1930s;
and

WHEREAS, Carleton Mabee of Gardiner, New York, died on December 18, 2014, one week before his 100th birthday; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his wife, Carleton Mabee is survived by his two children, Timothy I. and Susan, and two granddaughters, as well as two great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Carleton Mabee 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 honor Carleton Mabee posthumously upon the occasion of winning a Pulitzer Prize for his biography THE AMERICAN LEONARDO: A LIFE OF SAMUEL

F.B. MORSE; and be it further

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