

## 2015-J311

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Robert A. Stopper upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Citizen of the Year Award by the Lyons Chamber of Commerce on February 2, 2015

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

WHEREAS, Robert A. Stopper has given not only of his time and energies but also of his competence, intelligence and leadership and consequently has been designated for special honor; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Robert A. Stopper upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Citizen of the Year Award by the Lyons Chamber of Commerce, to be celebrated on Monday, February 2, 2015, at the Lyons American Legion, Lyons, New York; and

WHEREAS, The oldest of 12 children, Robert A. Stopper was born and raised on a small farm near the outskirts of Williamsport, Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, Robert A. Stopper graduated from Saint Francis College with a bachelor's degree in English and Philosophy; he went on to attend SUNY Oswego where he received a masters in Educational Administration and a Certificate of Advanced Studies and Supervision; and

WHEREAS, For more than three decades, Robert A. Stopper was as an English and Public Speaking Teacher in Newark, New York, during which time he was appointed Chairperson of the English Department; and

WHEREAS, In addition, he served Finger Lakes Community College (FLCC) for many years as an Adjunct Professor, as well as Coordinator of the FLCC Gemini Programs; and

WHEREAS, Robert A. Stopper has been called upon to contribute his time

and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of himself unstintingly; and

WHEREAS, A former Village Trustee and Chairman of the Village Planning Board, Robert A. Stopper is a member of St. Michael's Parish where he serves as a Pauley Box volunteer and caretaker of the outdoor flower gardens; and

WHEREAS, Active within his community, Robert A. Stopper is a member of Mainstreet, the Wayne County Museum, Trailworkers, and New York State Parks and Trails; he is also a volunteer boat greeter, a Lyons promoter and an Erie Canal Ambassador; and

WHEREAS, Over the past six years, Robert A. Stopper along with a group of volunteers have welcomed more than 1,000 boats from around the world to Lyons, New York, serving as hosts, answering questions, giving directions, and escorting tourists around the community; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, in an effort to better attract and assist tourists, Robert A. Stopper designed the Historic Lyons brochure which features photos, descriptions, and all six National Historic Register parcels and buildings; he also designed the Welcome to Historic Lyons Map, which is given to all boaters and highlights the route of Clinton's Ditch and the Enlarged Erie through the village of Lyons; and

WHEREAS, Robert A. Stopper's writings and photos have appeared in WAYNE COUNTY LIFE, the DAILY MESSENGER, and the FINGER LAKES TIMES; he has contributed to WATERWAY GUIDE, ACTIVE CAPTAIN, BOATER BOB, NEW YORK BOATER, and the nationally known publication CANOE AND KAYAK; and

WHEREAS, With a true passion for historic waterways, Robert A. Stopper serves on the Board of Canal New York, and is a member of the Canal Society of New York, the Erie Canal Museum, the Finger Lakes Boat Museum, the Antique Boat Museum in Clayton, New York, the Lake Champlain

Maritime Museum in Vermont, and the American's Great Loop Cruisers' Association; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of his community service, a

period of constructive involvement, Robert A. Stopper has stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Vickie, as well as their two daughters, Theresa and Katrina, and three grandchildren, Noah, Ambrose and Xavier, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Robert A. Stopper has displayed throughout his life; 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 this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Robert A. Stopper upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Citizen of the Year Award by the Lyons Chamber of Commerce on February 2, 2015; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Robert A. Stopper.