

2015-J429

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of former Assemblyman Donald R. Davidsen, renowned public servant, distinguished citizen, and devoted member of his community

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to mourn publicly the death of certain prominent individuals whose valued contributions to their community served to enhance the quality of life in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Donald R. Davidsen, renowned public servant, distinguished citizen, and devoted member of his community, died on Saturday, January 10, 2015, at the age of 79; and

WHEREAS, Born in 1936, in Flushing, New York, to the late George and Emily Davidsen, Donald R. Davidsen moved to Greenwich, New York, where he graduated high school in 1953; he then attended the New York State College of Agriculture at Cornell University, earning a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in 1959; and

WHEREAS, Upon graduating from college, Donald R. Davidsen served his country proudly as a member of the United States Air Force, attaining the esteemed rank of Captain while serving in Alabama, and Aviano, Italy; and

WHEREAS, After returning to the states in 1964, Donald R. Davidsen opened a large animal practice in Canisteo, New York, where he practiced until 1987; and

WHEREAS, During this time, Donald R. Davidsen served as a Steuben County Coroner, a Steuben County Legislator and Vice Chairman, and was a member of the Canisteo Central School Board; he also chaired the Legislature's Agriculture, Industry, and Planning Committee which was responsible for designing and directing the construction of the new county office building, one of Donald's proudest accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, In 2002, Donald R. Davidsen was inducted into the Steuben County Hall of Fame, and a street in front of the office, "Davidsen Way," bears his name; and

WHEREAS, In 1986, Donald R. Davidsen was elected to the New York State Assembly, serving as the ranking minority member of both the Assembly Health and Agriculture Committees; in 1995, he was appointed Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets for the State of New York, a position he held until his retirement in 1999; and

WHEREAS, Donald R. Davidsen's purposeful life and civic endeavors were unerringly directed to serving the needs of his fellow human beings; he was a charter member and past president of the Hornell Area Arts Council, past president of the Canisteo Rotary Club, and director of the Finger Lakes Association; in addition, he was a member of the Steuben County Industrial Development Agency, American Legion, Morning Star Lodge No. 65 F&AM of Canisteo, and the First Presbyterian Church of Canisteo; and

WHEREAS, Donald R. Davidsen was sincerely loved and greatly respected by all those with whom he worked; committed to his community, the people he represented, his State, and his Nation, he served his public with dignity, dedication and incisive wisdom; and

WHEREAS, Over a long and meritorious life of service on behalf of others, Donald R. Davidsen was a man of action, of integrity, and of commitment, whose true compassion was generously given to all who knew him; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his first wife, Elizabeth Warner, and his brother, Roger, Donald R. Davidsen is survived by his wife, Valerie Smith, whom he married in 2005; his brother, George (Nancy); three children, Karen (John), Kristine (Bruce), and Richard (Loriann); eight

grandchildren, AJ, Christa, Mia, Daniel, James, Michael, Matthew, and Aleah; and seven stepchildren, 11 step-grandchildren, and one step-great grandson; and

WHEREAS, Donald R. Davidsen leaves behind a tremendous 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 former Assemblyman Donald R. Davidsen, renowned public servant, 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 Donald R. Davidsen.