

## 2015-K107

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the illustrious career of Tracy Baxter upon the occasion of his retirement after many years of distinguished service in the field of Broadcasting

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proud to celebrate the career of newsman Tracy Baxter and to honor his contributions in providing information and understanding to the Hudson Valley community; and

WHEREAS, Tracy Baxter officially retired as a columnist and the Regional Editor of Multimedia for the TIMES HERALD-RECORD on January 30, 2015, after nearly five years as the online face of "NewsWatch"; and

WHEREAS, Tracy Baxter has been a news authority in the Hudson Valley and the Catskills for more than 40 years; he has covered thousands of stories, including the release of the Iranian hostages who flew into Stewart Airport in Newburgh in January 1981 and traveled by bus to the United States Military Academy at West Point to the cheers of thousands of residents along what became known as Freedom Road; and

WHEREAS, In December of 1988, Tracy Baxter reported on the terrorist bombing that brought down Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, which killed all 16 crew members and 243 passengers, including Theo Cohen from Port Jervis; and

WHEREAS, The following November, Tracy Baxter was on the scene to tell of a tornado that brought down a wall at East Coldenham Elementary School, killing seven students and injuring many more; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Tracy Baxter was there to report on people who have made a difference in their communities, on positive stories in the region, including Thanksgiving meals served to the hungry, and Habitat for Humanity which builds homes for the homeless; and

WHEREAS, Tracy Baxter started his news reporting career in 1972 in radio at WDLC in Port Jervis, New York, becoming its News Director, and

then moved to the other side of Orange County, reporting for WGNV in Newburgh, New York; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable newsman spent most of his career, 27 years as News Director and Anchor, at Cable 6 TV for Time Warner Cable in Middletown, New York where he pioneered television news in the region; and WHEREAS, Tracy Baxter not only survived but thrived in an occupational field where employment is anything but guaranteed, especially over the last 10 years; and

WHEREAS, Given his calm, authoritative style, Tracy Baxter became the journalist in his region who people could trust and ultimately turn to for their news; and

WHEREAS, Fellow reporters, public relations practitioners and the subjects of his news stories have a high regard for Tracy Baxter, his work, his dedication and his sensitivity; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body gives special recognition to one whose name became synonymous with Hudson Valley news; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to proudly commemorate the illustrious career of Tracy Baxter upon the occasion of his retirement after many years of distinguished service in the field of Broadcasting, and to wish him well in all his future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Tracy Baxter.