

2015-J2041

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring the life of former New York State Police Superintendent Thomas Constantine

WHEREAS, The quality and sanctity of community life are cherished values worthy of safeguarding, and this Legislative Body is moved to honor those exemplary public servants who have devoted their lives to preserving and protecting such values; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor the life of former New York State Police Superintendent Thomas Constantine; and

WHEREAS, Thomas A. Constantine was born in Buffalo, New York, on December 23, 1938; and

WHEREAS, He began his law enforcement career in 1960 as a Deputy with the Erie County Sheriff's Department, and joined the New York State Police on January 2, 1962, graduating at the top of his recruit class academically; and

WHEREAS, In 1966, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and then appointed Investigator in the BCI; he was promoted to Lieutenant in 1971, Captain in 1976, Major in 1978, Inspector in 1979, Assistant Deputy Superintendent in 1981, and Deputy Superintendent/Field Commander in 1984; and

WHEREAS, Then Governor Mario M. Cuomo appointed Thomas A. Constantine to be the 10th Superintendent of the New York State Police on January 2, 1987; and

WHEREAS, The first Superintendent in 30 years to rise through the ranks, he immediately undertook a division-wide review of all New York State Police operations and procedures; and

WHEREAS, His tenure as Superintendent marked the emergence of the

State Police as a major force in combating drug trafficking; and
WHEREAS, Superintendent Constantine is credited with establishing many innovative programs, including the Community Narcotics Enforcement Teams; Drug Recognition Technician Program; Saturation Speed Enforcement Program; INTERPOL Liaison Program; Driving While Intoxicated Checkpoint Program; Colonel Henry F. Williams Homicide Seminar; Homicide Assessment Lead Tracking Network; Statewide Narcotics Indexing Program; 1-800-CURB-DWI Program; Computer Crimes Unit; and Consumer Product Tampering Program; and

WHEREAS, On March 11, 1994, President Clinton appointed Superintendent Constantine to be Administrator of the United States Drug Enforcement Agency; and

WHEREAS, In that capacity, he oversaw a workforce of more than 7,000 special agents and support staff, and DEA offices in all 50 states and more than 50 countries; and

WHEREAS, He created new programs to foster closer cooperation with state and local law enforcement agencies and to enhance their ability to fight violent drug crime; he also directed efforts to help foreign governments combat the world's most powerful drug trafficking organizations; and

WHEREAS, In the fall of 1999, Superintendent Constantine joined the faculty of the Rockefeller College School of Public Affairs and Policy as a Public Service Professor; in that capacity, he initiated the creation of a college-level executive development training program for municipal police executives that opened its first session in September 2005; and

WHEREAS, He was appointed a Dean at the Rockefeller College School of Public Affairs and Policy, and continued in a lecturing and mentoring role there until recently; and

WHEREAS, He also served on the Board of Directors of the Partnership for a Drug-Free America; and

WHEREAS, In May of 2000, Superintendent Constantine accepted the biggest challenge of his career when he was appointed by the United Kingdom Secretary of State to serve as Oversight Commissioner of the Independent Commission on Policing for Northern Ireland; and

WHEREAS, In September of 2007, Superintendent Constantine was appointed to a select Senior Advisory Group to the US Director of National Intelligence; and

WHEREAS, Superintendent Constantine served as a consultant to California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Vermont in matters involving organized crime, promotional boards and management review; and

WHEREAS, He held an associate's degree from Erie Community College, a bachelor's degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo, and a master's degree from the State University of New York at Albany where he completed the academic portion of his doctoral program; he was selected as the outstanding alumnus of both of the latter; he was later awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Niagara University (New York) in 1995, an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Stonehill College (Massachusetts) in 1997, and an Honorary Doctor of Laws from the State University of New York in 2012; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Constantine was married to his loving wife, Ruth Ann, for 55 years, with whom he had six children; and

WHEREAS, The courageous and dedicated efforts of public servants such as Superintendent Thomas A. Constantine, who devoted their lives to protecting the lives of others, are worthy of the praise and recognition of this Great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the life of Superintendent Thomas A. Constantine; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Ruth Ann Constantine.