

2015-J2724

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of George Spitz, outstanding athlete and creator of the New York City Marathon, and recognizing the significance of his life accomplishments

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to publicly celebrate the memory of extraordinary individuals whose outstanding athletic ability and humanitarian endeavors have inspired tremendous personal and public pride and whose achievements continue to contribute to the passion of the sport they loved; and

WHEREAS, George Spitz of Manhattan, New York, died on Friday, March 27, 2015, at the age of 92; and

WHEREAS, A World War II veteran, George Spitz was employed as an Auditor for New York State; and

WHEREAS, A dedicated marathon runner, George Spitz participated in the Boston Marathon in 1975; invigorated by the extravaganza surrounding the Patriots' Day Race in Boston, he aimed to change the New York City Marathon from a four-lap race within Central Park to a marathon through the five boroughs of New York City; and

WHEREAS, After much persistence, George Spitz witnessed his vision of a more acclaimed NYC Marathon come to fruition in 1976, in conjunction with the United States Bicentennial Celebration; and

WHEREAS, On October 24, 1976, more than 2,000 runners sped through the streets and bridges of Staten Island, Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx, and Manhattan; the prestigious NYC Marathon went on to become the model for mass participation urban races around the world; and

WHEREAS, In 2014, George Spitz was proudly inducted into the renowned New York Road Runners Hall of Fame due to his indomitable influence in creating the five-borough NYC Marathon; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of

compassion, George Spitz 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 mourn the death of George Spitz, an outstanding athlete and creator of the NYC Marathon, and recognizing the significance of his life accomplishments; and be it further

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