

2015-J3001

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of John J. Andrews, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to citizens of the State of New York whose lifework and civic endeavor served to enhance the quality of life in their communities and the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, John J. Andrews of Vestal, New York, died on Monday, April 27, 2015, at the age of 84; and

WHEREAS, Born February 5, 1931, in Hornell, New York, John J. Andrews was the son of Clair and Edna Saxton Andrews; and

WHEREAS, John J. Andrews grew up during the war years, and began working evenings and nights around school hours at the age of 13 for the Erie Railroad; during this time, he rose from switch sweeper to the Accounting Bureau; and

WHEREAS, A talented athlete, John J. Andrews was nicknamed "Spider" by his high school baseball coach for being a web in the infield; he was also proud to achieve Division I status as a college basketball referee; and

WHEREAS, After proudly serving his country as a member of the United States Navy, John J. Andrews joined the New York State Police; and

WHEREAS, In 1954, he led the Governor's car for the opening of the New York State Thruway; and

WHEREAS, John J. Andrews worked for several years as a Deputy Sheriff in Monroe County, and subsequently, moved to Broome County in 1963 to work as a Tobin's First Prize Salesman; and

WHEREAS, In the 1970s, John J. Andrews was elected Broome County Sheriff where he rendered loyal, faithful, and conscientious service for two terms; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable man distinguished himself in his profession by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community; and

WHEREAS, A pioneer in the field of law enforcement, John J. Andrews was an innovator in the field of jail administration; he introduced competitive civil service, hired the first female deputies, set up a Mobile Radio Communications System, and developed the largest inmate Work Release Program in Upstate New York; and

WHEREAS, In addition, John J. Andrews significantly improved safety and health conditions for guards and inmates under his command; he also promoted numerous initiatives including mental health clinics, high school equivalency training, library services, dental services for inmates, and the first full time jail chaplain; and

WHEREAS, Following his retirement, John J. Andrews served legal papers for HH&K and other law firms up until the age of 82; and

WHEREAS, John J. Andrew's commitment to excellence, and his spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, A vital part of his community, John J. Andrews enjoyed government and politics, vegetable gardening, golf, and above all, meeting people; he was known for his warmth and wit, and never lost his enthusiasm for his hometown or his friends; and

WHEREAS, John J. Andrew's greatest joy was participating in musical theatre performance; he appeared locally in numerous productions including "Hello Dolly," "Fiddler on the Roof," "Annie Get Your Gun," "Music Man," "My Fair Lady," "Sound of Music," "South Pacific," "Most Happy Fellow," "Anything Goes," "No, No, Nanette," "Camelot," and "The King

and I" at the Cider Mill and with the BC Pops, SRO and Jan DeAngelo Productions; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his parents; his two brothers, Clifton and Donald; a brother in spirit, Frank Fitzsimmons; and sister, Ruth, John

J. Andrews is survived by his partner of 34 years, Katherine (Kate) Fitzgerald; her extended family; his five children, Susan (Jerry), Bernie (Sue), Marybeth (William), Joseph, and Alice; nine grandchildren, Jacqueline, Michael, Nicholas, Madelyn, John, Robert, Sara, Luke and Violet; his former son-in-law, Luke (Karen) and their two children, Matthew and Kelli; sister-in-law, Mary Ann; several nieces and nephews; and his Godson, Santino; his first cousin, Paul Andrews (Clara); as well as his close friends and neighbors, Monica and Russ; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, John J. Andrew 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 John J. Andrews, 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 John J. Andrews.