

2015-J3326

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of James V. McEnery, dedicated educator, family man, and distinguished citizen

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, James V. McEnery of Cornwall-on-Hudson, New York, died on December 24, 2015, at the age of 99; and

WHEREAS, The youngest of six children, James V. McEnery was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on July 4, 1916, to Michael and Mary Rushton McEnery; and

WHEREAS, James V. McEnery earned his Bachelor's degree in both Education and Latin from St. Joseph's College in Philadelphia, now known as St. Joseph's University, in 1938; four years later, he received his Master's degree in English and American literature from the University of Pennsylvania, where he also did additional postgraduate work; and

WHEREAS, James V. McEnery proudly served his country as a member of the United States Army during World War II, serving from August of 1942 to January of 1946; during his time in the military, he received several citations for his valiant service in the Pacific; and

WHEREAS, James V. McEnery distinguished himself in his profession and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community; and

WHEREAS, James V. McEnery was teaching at St. Joseph's College when he met his wife, the former Jane R. Papiano, whom he married in 1947; he later taught at Ravenhill Academy in Philadelphia before he and his family moved to New York, where he joined the faculty of the USMA Preparatory School, then stationed at the former Stewart Air Force Base;

and

WHEREAS, He then went on to teach at Cornwall Central High School before becoming a member of the founding faculty at Mount Saint Mary College, Newburgh, New York, when the Sisters of St. Dominic opened the college in 1960, as a liberal arts college for women; and

WHEREAS, The student body at Mount Saint Mary College consisted of 10 students, and the entire college was housed in a former residence known as the Villa Madonna; James V. McEnery, who taught English, was the first lay faculty member of the fledgling college; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his tenure at Mount Saint Mary College, James V. McEnery helped develop the college's English offerings, teaching a variety of courses, and chaired the English department from 1970-1977; his specialties were Anglo-Saxon and 18th Century literature and linguistics; and

WHEREAS, In 1978, James V. McEnery established an award for English achievement in memory of his wife Jane, who had also supported the college by participating in many events and functions; he became a historian of the steady growth of the college, eventually donating a collection of memorabilia and lecturing on the college's early days after he retired; and

WHEREAS, Devoted to Mount Saint Mary College, James V. McEnery led every commencement address from 1971 until his retirement; he was also a tireless advocate, working phone-a-thons and other fundraising events and attending nearly every alumni reunion; and

WHEREAS, James V. McEnery received the Mount Saint Mary College Faculty Award for his contributions to the college in 1983; he was recognized as a dedicated teacher, loyal colleague and gentle counselor; a familiar presence in his bowtie and cap, he was known as "our Mr. Chips"; and

WHEREAS, In 1985, James V. McEnery was given the Trustees Award, and was cited for his love for the college and his humanitarian approach to life; two years later, he retired from his beloved Alma Mater with the

rank of associate professor emeritus; and

WHEREAS, James V. McEnery was a faithful member of St. Thomas of Canterbury Roman Catholic Church in Cornwall-on-Hudson, New York, where he served as a lector; and

WHEREAS, During his much deserved retirement, James V. McEnery traveled throughout the United States with his children and on many solo journeys, reconnecting with family members and visiting landmarks; he also enjoyed exploring both England and Ireland; and

WHEREAS, An avid sports enthusiast, James V. McEnery enjoyed watching baseball and was known for his deep knowledge of baseball statistics; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his wife Jane in 1977, James V. McEnery is survived by his son, James V. T. (Cheryl) McEnery; his three daughters, Mary Anne, Susan (Gary), and Regina; and many nephews, nieces, grandnephews, grandnieces, and cousins; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, James V. McEnery 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 James V. McEnery, family man, dedicated educator, and distinguished citizen; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of James V. McEnery.