

## 2015-K898

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION paying tribute to the life and artistic legacy of Ellsworth Kelly, American painter, sculptor, and printmaker

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to honor citizens of New York State whose life and work has made a significant impact in their field; and

WHEREAS, Ellsworth Kelly of Spencertown, New York, died on December 27, 2015, at the age of 92; and

WHEREAS, Citizens of New York and people around the world have been inspired and influenced by the genius of Ellsworth Kelly's paintings and sculptures for decades; and

WHEREAS, Born on May 31, 1923, in Newburgh, New York, Ellsworth Kelly was the son of Allan and Florence Kelly; he spent his early years in New Jersey with his parents and two brothers; and

WHEREAS, As a young man, Ellsworth Kelly attended the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York, for technical art and design in 1941; two years later, he joined the United States Army and served in the "camouflage unit" in which he joined the effort to distract enemy forces with inflatable decoy tanks; there were many other artists and designers who served alongside him in the Army; and

WHEREAS, After being discharged in 1945, Ellsworth Kelly attended the Boston Museum of the Fine Arts School from 1946-1948; and

WHEREAS, In 1948, under the G.I. Bill, he moved to live and study in Paris; while there he was inspired by the Renaissance, Picasso, Byzantine, and Romanesque art; he was interested in perspective and experimented with geometric shapes and bold color; and

WHEREAS, While Ellsworth Kelly was in Paris, Abstract Expressionism had taken root in the United States; in 1954, he returned to New York at a time when painters were interested in their relationship with their

paintings; he was more intrigued by the relationship between the viewer and the canvas; with a focus on space and form, he developed his own artistic style which defied convention and expectation; and

WHEREAS, In 1970, in search of inspiration and more space to work, Ellsworth Kelly moved to Spencertown, New York, where he lived with his husband, photographer Jack Shear; and

WHEREAS, Over the next six decades Ellsworth Kelly's exceptional work reached a global audience; his art has been on exhibition at The Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and many others; it has also reached galleries and museums across the world in Paris, Spain, Tokyo, Amsterdam, and Buenos Aires, among others; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Ellsworth Kelly leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all he knew and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to pay tribute to the life and artistic legacy of Ellsworth Kelly, American painter, sculptor, and printmaker; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to his husband Jack Shear, and his brother David Kelly.