

2015-J3528

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Jeffrey A. Wise, social justice advocate, former journalist, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community

WHEREAS, It is with feelings of deepest regret that this Legislative Body records the passing of Jeffrey A. Wise of Saratoga Springs, New York, a preeminent citizen whose distinguished public service and caring commitment will long serve as a standard to which other might aspire; and

WHEREAS, Jeffrey A. Wise, the son of the late Jane (Stanley) and the Reverend A. King Wise, died on Sunday, January 17, 2016, in Saratoga Springs, New York, at the age of 62; and

WHEREAS, Born on October 1, 1953, in Glens Falls, New York, Jeffrey A. Wise graduated from Glens Falls High School in 1971; after graduation, he earned his Bachelor's degree in Philosophy from the State University of New York at Potsdam; and

WHEREAS, Jeffrey A. Wise distinguished himself in his profession and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community; and

WHEREAS, Jeffrey A. Wise began his career in journalism, serving as Sports Editor and then City Editor at THE POST-STAR in Glens Falls, New York; from there he moved to THE DAILY GAZETTE, working first in the paper's Saratoga Bureau and then as city editor in Schenectady, New York; and

WHEREAS, In 1984, Jeffrey A. Wise enrolled in Albany Law School, and in 1987, obtained his Juris Doctor, while continuing to work at THE DAILY GAZETTE during school breaks; and

WHEREAS, After receiving his law degree, Jeffrey A. Wise transitioned from journalism to public policy, spending the next 25 years in Albany,

New York, where he advocated for the homeless and people with special physical and mental-health needs; and

WHEREAS, During this time, he held the position of Attorney with the New York State Law Revision Commission, Senior Policy Analyst at Coalition for the Homeless, and served as both President and Chief Executive Officer of the New York State Rehabilitation Association; and

WHEREAS, On June 19, 2013, Jeffrey A. Wise was nominated by Governor Andrew Cuomo to be the inaugural Executive Director of the New York State Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs; he will be remembered fondly as a dedicated, exemplary public servant, whose steadfast leadership made the office an exceptional place to work; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his illustrious career, Jeffrey A. Wise worked tirelessly to support vulnerable individuals, including the homeless, people with mental illness, and those with developmental disabilities; his stewardship of the Justice Center has benefitted the lives of numerous people across this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, A man of many interests and passions, Jeffrey A. Wise was an avid follower of all sports; he was a lifelong fan of the Boston Red Sox and the Buffalo Bills, and loved racing season at Saratoga Race Course and watching ice hockey in Glens Falls, as well as playing golf at Saratoga Spa State Park; and

WHEREAS, Jeffrey A. Wise also enjoyed listening to music, he especially appreciated Lou Reed, the Who, the Moody Blues, and Mark Knopfler; and

WHEREAS, Jeffrey A. Wise will long be remembered for his unconditional love of his family, his zest for politics, his skill at forging strong

personal and professional alliances, his quick wit, and his keen analytical ability; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his parents, and brother, Gregory A. Wise, Jeffrey A. Wise is survived by his two daughters, Rebecca Wise Melli and

Abigail L. Wise; one sister, Gretchen Wise Moore; a sister-in-law, Penelope Wise; three nieces, Melissa (Bruce), Vanessa (Jerry), and Samantha (Michael); two nephews, Ryan (Kristen) and Christopher; five great-nephews; and four great-nieces; as well as dear friend Shelly Nortz; and WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Jeffrey A. Wise 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 Jeffrey A. Wise, social justice advocate, former journalist, 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 Jeffrey A. Wise.