

2015-K956

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Carl W. Fribolin, astute businessman, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community

WHEREAS, It is with feelings of deepest regret that this Legislative Body records the passing of Carl W. Fribolin, a preeminent citizen whose distinguished public service and caring commitment will long serve as standards to which others might aspire; and

WHEREAS, Carl W. Fribolin of Geneva, New York, died on Wednesday, January 20th, 2016, at the age of 97; and

WHEREAS, Carl W. Fribolin will fondly be remembered as an advocate for the region and an inspiring visionary; he possessed tremendous internal determination and he thought carefully and astutely about the community, its challenges and opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Born to a farming family in 1918, Carl W. Fribolin grew up in Naples, New York, and graduated from Cornell University in 1940; he taught agriculture for three years in the Southern Tier and then worked as a district sales representative for Ralston-Purina in St. Louis, Missouri; and

WHEREAS, In 1963, Carl W. Fribolin founded Seedway and ran the business until he sold it to Agway in 1987; throughout the years, he bought several different companies including Seem Seed Farms in Emmaus, Pennsylvania and Robson Quality Seeds, a company which sold flower and vegetable seeds to gardeners; and

WHEREAS, When Carl W. Fribolin purchased Robson Quality Seeds, annual sales stood at \$250,000; by 1984, with the company refocused on farm seeds, sales increased to \$11 million a year, and the thriving business employed 52 people; and

WHEREAS, A leader in every respect, Carl W. Fribolin was very involved in the northeast seeds industry and held the position of President of

the New York State Seed Association as well as the New York State Seed Cooperative, which was based in Ithaca, New York; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, Carl W. Fribolin was already in his 80's when he decided to turn part of his farm into a winery; in 2003, he planted his first grapes and three years later opened a tasting room; and

WHEREAS, Carl W. Fribolin distinguished himself in his profession and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community; and

WHEREAS, Devoted to the community in which he lived and worked, Carl W. Fribolin held numerous leadership positions at various organizations including Chair of the Finger Lakes Health Board of Directors, Trustee of Keuka College, Executive Director and Member of the Smith Opera House Board of Directors, Member of the Lyons National Bank Advisory Board, and Trustee of Geneva Savings Bank, as well as President of the Finger Lakes Council, Boy Scouts of America; and

WHEREAS, One of Carl W. Fribolin's most lasting contributions to the city of Geneva was the renovation of the Smith Opera House; he oversaw every detail of that restoration until its completion, including the fundraising and the structural and decorative aspects; and

WHEREAS, For his fierce determination, engaging personality and leadership style, Carl W. Fribolin was the recipient of numerous awards and accolades such as Rotary's Springstead Award for Community Service and the Celebrate Smith Award by the Smith Opera House; and

WHEREAS, Even in his mid and late 90's, Carl W. Fribolin remained active; he donated part of White Springs Farm to Hobart and William Smith Colleges in 2014 and accepted an honorary degree from these educational institutions that spring; in addition, he built a new house, and he spoke at a Town Board meeting as recently as last year; and

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

WHEREAS, Outside of work and philanthropy, Carl W. Fribolin loved horses and competitive horse driving and enjoyed collecting antiques; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by spouses Margaret Voorhies Fribolin and Fanny Defendorf Fribolin, Carl W. Fribolin is survived by his two daughters, Anne (Gordon) Fribolin Stagg and Patricia (Donald) Cunningham; his companion, Elizabeth Mitchell, and her two sons, Gregory and David; and five grandchildren, Shannon (Dennis), Gregory (Theresa), Paul (Michelle), Leslie (Dean), and Michael; as well as seven great-grandchildren Nicole, Jacob, Julia, Ryan, Lindsey, Kaylyn, and Justin; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Carl W. Fribolin 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 Carl W. Fribolin, astute businessman, 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 Carl W. Fribolin.