

2015-J3837

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Mark Murphy posthumously upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Syracuse Area Music Awards Hall of Fame on March 3, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor and recognize those talented individuals within our midst, who have had a significant impact on the arts and culture of our communities through their outstanding musical entertainment; one such individual is the late Mark Murphy, who died in October of 2015, at the age of 83; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Mark Murphy posthumously upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Syracuse Area Music Awards Hall of Fame to be celebrated at a Ceremony on Thursday, March 3, 2016, at the Dinosaur Bar-B-Que in Syracuse, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Syracuse Area Music Awards were first established in 1993, to annually recognize and honor Syracuse's most prominent musicians and music educators, aiming to bring these individuals to the forefront of public attention; and

WHEREAS, Jazz vocalist Mark Murphy was born in Syracuse, New York, on March 14, 1932; raised in Fulton, New York, he studied both voice and theater while attending Syracuse University; and

WHEREAS, After touring Canada with a jazz trio, Mark Murphy moved to New York City in 1954, where he worked part-time as an actor until he ultimately signed with Decca Records; and

WHEREAS, In 1956, Mark Murphy debuted his first album, "Meet Mark Murphy"; throughout his illustrious more than half-century musical career, he was six-time Grammy Award nominee, and released more than 40 albums; and

WHEREAS, In 1958, Mark Murphy moved to Los Angeles, California, and recorded music for Capitol Records; in the early 1960s, he returned to New York City, and recorded the album "Rah!" in 1961, with Riverside Records; the renowned album was comprised of hits such as "Angel Eyes," a version of Horace Silver's "Doodlin'", and "Green Dolphin Street"; and WHEREAS, Mark Murphy's favorite recording to date, "That's How I Love the Blues," soon followed, and in 1963, he hit the charts across the country with his single of "Fly Me to the Moon"; in addition, he was voted New Star of the Year in DOWN BEAT Magazine's Reader's Poll; and WHEREAS, Mark Murphy would go on to release several more popular songs, and by the mid-1960s, he began to realize his sizeable European fan base, and subsequently, started recording LPs for British labels, including Fontana and Immediate; and WHEREAS, Mark Murphy's intimate stage presence and stellar sound also earned him rave reviews from jazz and vocal critics, and by the time he returned to the United States in the early 1970s, he had become a major name in the musical industry; and WHEREAS, With a contract from Muse in hand, Mark Murphy started recording the first of close to two dozen albums which ranged from Jack Kerouac tributes complete with spoken word readings to a two-volume Nat King Cole Songbook; and WHEREAS, In 1987, Mark Murphy recorded an album of songs by Brazilian composer Ivan Lins, and in August of 1997, he released "Song For The Geese," for which he received his sixth Grammy nomination; and WHEREAS, Throughout his full and distinguished career, Mark Murphy performed countless tour dates throughout the United States, occasionally making stops in Central New York which included a performance at Jazz Fest in 1998, and a performance in his home town of Fulton; and WHEREAS, At the age of 80, the amazing Mark Murphy released his final album, "A Beautiful Friendship: Remembering Shirley Horn"; and WHEREAS, With deep appreciation, this Legislative Body is pleased to

have this opportunity to recognize the spellbinding talent of Mark Murphy, mindful of his lasting 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 honor Mark Murphy posthumously upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Syracuse Area Music Awards Hall of Fame; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Mark Murphy.