

## 2015-K988

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION celebrating the life and accomplishments of Ramblin' Lou Schriver, the father of country music in Western New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to mourn publicly the death of prominent citizens of the State of New York whose lifework and civic endeavors served to enhance the quality of life in this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Ramblin' Lou Schriver, the father of country music in Western New York, died on Sunday, January 17, 2016; and

WHEREAS, This self-taught musician and singer got his first guitar at age nine when his father, a barber, traded a haircut for a guitar, and then in 1947, when he was still a high school teenager, Lou Schriver landed a live 15-minute music radio segment at WJJL in Niagara Falls; and

WHEREAS, Wearing his trademark Stetson hat, Ramblin' Lou Schriver got his start in the music business playing parties and barn dances, and when it "wasn't cool to be country" he championed country music by booking and promoting other country artists such as Johnny Cash, Merle Haggard, Dolly Parton, Hank Williams, Sr. and others at venues like Kleinhans Music Hall; and

WHEREAS, After serving in the United States Army in the late 1950s, Lou Schriver met and married the love of his life, Joanie Marshall, a trained and accomplished musician; together they raised three daughters, Linda Lou, Lori Ann and Lynn Carol, and a son, Louis Edward, all of whom were destined to become part of the Ramblin' Lou legacy; and

WHEREAS, Before long, Ramblin' Lou Schriver was joined on the main stage at shows, fairs, festivals and charity events by the Ramblin' Lou Family Band featuring Joanie on lead guitar, Lou Jr. on the drums, Lori Ann on the violin, Lynn Carol on the keyboards and Linda Lou on the bass

and vocals; and

WHEREAS, In 1970, Ramblin' Lou Schriver purchased a local radio station and changed the call letters to WXRL, his initials, and for almost 70 years Ramblin' Lou and his family-staffed independent radio station has broadcasted classical country music over the airwaves of the Western New York region reaching listeners as far away as Rochester, Pennsylvania, and Toronto; and

WHEREAS, Highlights of Ramblin' Lou Schriver's career include performances at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, and the Jamboree held by historic WWVA in Wheeling, West Virginia; he was also inducted into the Buffalo Music Hall of Fame, the Buffalo Broadcasters Hall of Fame, and Nashville's Country Music Disk Jockey Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Ramblin' Lou Schriver 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 celebrate the life and accomplishments of Ramblin' Lou Schriver, the father of country music in Western New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Ramblin' Lou Schriver.