

2015-J4299

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of William Arthur Stowe, Olympic Gold Medalist, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to citizens of the State of New York whose lifework and civic endeavor served to enhance the quality of life in their communities and the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, William Arthur Stowe of Lake Placid, New York, died in his home on Monday, February 8, 2016, at the age of 75; and

WHEREAS, Born on March 23, 1940, in Oak Park, Illinois, to William Pearson and the former Darleen Allen, William Arthur Stowe, affectionately known as Bill, was raised in Bronxville, New York, and enjoyed spending the summer with his family in his beloved Adirondacks; and

WHEREAS, In 1954, Bill A. Stowe enrolled at the Kent School in Connecticut, where he began a long and distinguished career in rowing; after participating in the international Henley Regatta in 1958, he attended the School of Hotel Administration at Cornell University where he stroked and served as Captain of the undefeated 1959 freshman heavy-weight crew that went on to win the 1962 IRA Championships, a victory memorialized on the cover of SPORTS ILLUSTRATED; while a student, he was a member of Psi Upsilon fraternity and the Sphinx Head Society; and

WHEREAS, After college, Bill A. Stowe proudly served his country as a Lieutenant in the United States Navy; while stationed in Saigon, Vietnam, he rowed for the Club Nautique in Saigon, Vietnam, while managing the Naval Officer's Club before returning to the United States to join the Vesper Boat Club where he trained for the 1964 Olympic Games; and

WHEREAS, Bill A. Stowe stroked the crew to victory at trials and then to the Gold Medal in Tokyo, Japan; the row to victory of the Vesper

Eight is the subject of Bill's 2005 book, ALL TOGETHER: THE FORMIDABLE JOURNEY TO THE GOLD WITH THE 1964 CREW; and

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

WHEREAS, Following the Olympics, Bill A. Stowe continued his rowing career as a coach at St. Joseph's University; in 1967, he accepted the head coach position at Columbia University; and

WHEREAS, From 1971-1985, Bill A. Stowe served as head coach of the United States Coast Guard Academy Rowing Team, and led the Cadets in defeating Yale University and winning the Dad Vails the following year; for a short time, he held the position of Sports Information Director; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Bill A. Stowe coached the Litchfield Rowing Association to numerous youth national championships from 1968-1971, as well as the Blood Street Sculls during the 1970s; and

WHEREAS, Bill A. Stowe served as the ABC television rowing commentator for the 1968 and 1972 Olympic Games alongside Howard Cosell; he also served on the National Association of Amateur Oarsmen (NAAO) Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable man held the position of Chairman of the Publicity Committee and is remembered for his work on the Rowing Safety Committee which established standard procedures demonstrated in a video required for rowing organizations to follow; and

WHEREAS, In 1983, Bill A. Stowe married Ann Parsons, and together they had a son, William Parsons Stowe; three years later, he earned his Master's degree in Business Administration from Rensselaer Polytechnic

Institute and continued to work for the Coast Guard Academy fundraising for the CGA Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Bill A. Stowe and his family moved to Lake Placid in 1990, and he went to work for the Olympic Regional Development Association

(ORDA); he then was employed by Hospice, and later, at St. Joseph's Rehabilitation Center; and

WHEREAS, On January 1, 2000, at midnight he married his second wife, Barbara Kellogg on the frozen surface of Big Wolf Lake, New York; and

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

WHEREAS, After his much deserved retirement, Bill A. Stowe devoted his time and energies to numerous community organizations serving as President of the Ledyard, Connecticut Rotary Club from 1989-1990, and co-founding the Lake Placid, New York Rotary Club in 1994, where he twice served as President; and

WHEREAS, An enthusiastic Rotarian, Bill A. Stowe organized the Great Adirondack Outdoor Rendezvous weekend which served as an precursor to many antique shows as well as Potato Gleaning, and he supported Polio Plus awareness and fundraising with the Iron Lung, bike-a-thons and walk-a-thons including his own personal journey on foot from Lake Placid to Tupper Lake; and

WHEREAS, Bill A. Stowe originated the River Road Ironman Aid Station where for over 10 years, runners could view and touch his 1964 Olympic Gold Medal; and

WHEREAS, A faithful congregant of the Church of St. Luke the Beloved Physician, Bill A. Stowe regularly attended the 7:45 a.m. service and served on the Vestry; an avid supporter of Northwood School, he organized the donation of a shell which restored the rowing program, and enjoyed leading Wednesdays Are for Hiking, a North Country after school program; and

WHEREAS, A man of many interests, Bill A. Stowe wrote and published numerous articles about the sport of rowing comparing his experiences in the sport to mountain climbing; this energetic man traveled the globe climbing Mount Rainier, Kilimanjaro and the 46 major peaks of the Adirondacks, and hiked the Grand Canyon Rim to Rim Trail, the Chilkoot

Trail in Alaska, Death Valley, part of the Pacific Coast Trail, and from Miami to Key West in memory of Admiral Hayes; and

WHEREAS, Bill A. Stowe is a member of the Athletic Hall of Fame at Kent School, Cornell University, and the United States Coast Guard Academy, the Helms Hall of Fame, and National Rowing Hall of Fame, as well

.SO DOC S R4299 RESO TEXT 2015

as the International Rowing Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Bill A. Stowe held the title of President of the National Rowing Foundation where he was a Trustee, and was the Director of Philadelphia's Annual Aberdeen Dads Vail Regatta where he served as regatta ombudsman for many years; and

WHEREAS, In 2011, Bill A. Stowe was the inaugural recipient of the Jack Kelly Golden Oars Award for superior achievements in rowing, service to amateur athletics, and success in a chosen profession; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his brother, Allen (Wendy), Bill A. Stowe is survived by his loving wife, Barbara; one son, William P. Stowe; two brothers Denby and Michael Stowe; one step-daughter, Susanne (Chip); a step-son, Jack (Nina); six grandchildren, Paige, Eliza, Katherine, Caroline, Ian, and Alexandra Herndon; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Bill A. Stowe 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 William Arthur Stowe, Olympic Gold Medalist, 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 William Arthur Stowe.