

2021-J353

Senate Resolution No. 353

BY: Senator HINCHEY

MOURNING the death of Frances G. Tonko, beloved friend, mother and pillar in her 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, It is with feelings of deepest regret that this Legislative Body records the passing of Frances G. Tonko, an extraordinary woman of indomitable faith and dedication whose purposeful life will long serve as a standard to which others might aspire; and

WHEREAS, Frances G. Tonko of Amsterdam, New York, died on Sunday, January 24, 2021, at the age of 99; and

WHEREAS, A lifelong resident of Amsterdam, Frances G. Tonko was born on April 16, 1921; she was the beloved daughter of Boleslaw and Karolyna Bik Grajewski; and

WHEREAS, A 1937 graduate of Wilbur H. Lynch High School, Frances G. Tonko later went on to continue her post graduate studies; and

WHEREAS, Frances and Stanley C. Tonko were united in marriage on

June 21, 1947; the couple shared 68 wonderful years together until Stanley passed away on June 28, 2015; and

WHEREAS, A woman of many talents, Frances G. Tonko distinguished herself in her profession and by her sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of her community; she was employed by the Selective Service System and later worked for the Amsterdam Insurance Agency until her retirement in 1976; and

WHEREAS, This devout woman was a member of St. Stanislaus Church and the Ladies Rosary Society; she was also a member of the St. Mary's Club 60 and a past member of the Montgomery County Women's Democratic Club, as well as New York Blood Donor of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Frances G. Tonko 's commitment to excellence, and her spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Frances G. Tonko took great pride in her vegetable and flower gardens; she was a celebrated baker and cook; her food was always in demand, and her delicious pierogi, lasagna, babka bread, and lemon meringue pie were loved by all; she was also an avid lover of animals, particularly her own, Victor and Vanessa; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by her husband, Stanley; her brother, Joseph (Elizabeth); her sister, Jessie (John); and a sister-in-law, Victoria (Edward); Frances G. Tonko is survived by her two children, Patricia Tonko and United States Congressman Paul D. Tonko; niece and goddaughter, Gayle; niece, Diane; and two nephews, Edward and Richard;

as well as four grandnieces, one grandnephew and two great-grandnieces; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Frances G. Tonko leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all she served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Frances G. Tonko, beloved friend, mother, and pillar in her community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Frances G. Tonko.