

2021-J369

Senate Resolution No. 369

BY: Senator AKSHAR

MOURNING the death of Frank S. Lopke, astute businessman, family man and devoted member of his community

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

WHEREAS, A life-long resident of Apalachin, New York, Frank S. Lopke died on Friday, January 29, 2021, at the age of 84; and

WHEREAS, Frank S. Lopke was born on May 13, 1936, to Frank Sr. and Mary Lopke, on their second-generation family farm; as a young man, he became interested in machinery and cars and could often be found in his number 44 automobile at Glen Aubrey, Shangri La, and Five Mile Point Speedway, where he will always be remembered as a pioneer and a great competitor; and

WHEREAS, After purchasing his first dump truck, Frank S. Lopke discovered his entrepreneurial spirit and started on a path of many successful business ventures with his wife Barbara, with whom he had four lovely daughters; and

WHEREAS, With a strong work ethic, Frank S. Lopke toiled many long hours to provide for his family; through the years, he purchased other trucks and formed his first company, F.S. Lopke Contracting Inc. was started; currently, with over a 50-truck fleet, distinctively colored green with the slogan "We Rock The Southern Tier," his company proudly serves customers across the area; and

WHEREAS, In the early 1980s, Frank S. Lopke continued to build his empire when he started a rock and aggregate business at his first plant in Lounsberry, New York, and later, several locations in Broome and Tioga Counties; he formed Lopke Quarries Inc., which today, consists of 14 plant operations which crush up and down the East Coast and in 10 states; and

WHEREAS, In the early 1990s, Frank S. Lopke acquired a location in Birchardville, Pennsylvania, which was the first site where stone was blasted, allowing the expansion of product types; at the end of the decade, he once again expanded his thriving business by purchasing a plant in Las Vegas, Nevada, which became Lopke Granite Products; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous leadership of Frank S. Lopke, and with the assistance of over 200 dedicated employees, the business became one of the top sand and gravel producing companies in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Frank S. Lopke was a well-respected member of numerous industry organizations, and took great pride in knowing his stone products were part of many major construction, blacktop, and concrete projects in the area; and

WHEREAS, Frank S. Lopke truly enjoyed working, and remained involved with daily business activities until 10 days before his passing; leaving behind a company only he could have built, his influence will be

long-lasting, and his spirit will forever be the foundation of the Lopke Companies; and

WHEREAS, When he was not working, Frank S. Lopke enjoyed listening to polka music and spending time with his cherished family, whether it was a picnic on the fourth-generation farm, or a road trip with his atlas in hand; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his parents, his parents-in-law, Donald and Estella Watkins, brother in-law Raymond Watkins, and dear friend Paul Laszko, Frank S. Lopke is survived by his wife of 62 years, Barbara; four daughters, Judith (Christopher), Anne (Michael), Mary Ann (Steve), and Betsi (Woody); nine grandchildren, Jessica (Joseph), Kaitlin (Mark), Katherine (Nicholas), Ryan (Stacey), Cody (Gina), Amanda (Phillip), Nicholas (Kendal), Stanley (Karlle), and Madlyn (Paulie); and 13 great-grandchildren, Lily, Lia, Nora, Luna, Hudson, Hayden, Natalee, Makenna, Steven, Estella, Tobin, Macy, and Sawyer, as well as numerous colleagues and friends; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Frank S. Lopke 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 Frank S. Lopke, astute businessman, family man 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 Frank S. Lopke.