

2021-J544

Senate Resolution No. 544

BY: Senator MAY

CELEBRATING the life and accomplishments of former Assemblyman William Magee, renowned public servant and devoted member of his community

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those individuals of outstanding purpose whose lives were committed to public service and the pursuit of excellence in the conduct of the legislative process in this noble Empire State; and

WHEREAS, William "Bill" Magee of Nelson, New York, died on Thursday, December 24, 2020, at the age of 81; and

WHEREAS, The younger of two children born to Donald and Ruth (Hart) Magee, William Magee resided in the Town of Nelson all his life; the Magee family operated a small dairy and general store in Erieville, New York; and

WHEREAS, William Magee was a proud graduate of Cazenovia Central Schools and Cornell University where he earned a degree in Agricultural Economics; and

WHEREAS, The former Jeanette Nichols was the love of his life and the two were united in marriage for 52 years before her death; and

WHEREAS, Prior to serving in the New York State Assembly, William Magee was on the Madison County Board of Supervisors representing his town; he also worked at the New York State Fair; and

WHEREAS, While in the Assembly, he served on numerous committees but

was most proud of and respected as the Chair of the Agriculture Committee; and

WHEREAS, As an Assemblyman for 28 years, William Magee was a leader in advocacy for his beloved dairy farming families and all sectors of New York State agriculture industries; and

WHEREAS, He also served as a strong voice in support of education, volunteer firefighters, rural public health access, transportation improvements and numerous local and statewide economic development efforts; and

WHEREAS, William Magee was always at the forefront of protecting his constituents, fighting for tax reductions, energy cost containment and eliminating regulatory bureaucratic burdens; his tireless public service efforts have left an indelible impact upon his district, and the New York State agriculture industry; and

WHEREAS, William Magee was the epitome of what it means to be a public servant; he was committed to the welfare of his constituents in the 121st Assembly District and served as a model Assemblyman since he always made his best effort to communicate directly with his constituents; and

WHEREAS, This devoted and loyal man would make time to attend every meeting, and would help every constituent to the best of his abilities; he never forgot that the role of an Assemblyman is to serve the community, State, and Nation; every public servant should aspire to achieve this level of dedication; and

WHEREAS, Devoted to his community, William Magee was on the Boards of Crouse Community Center (where he was also a founder), Community Memorial, and Morrisville College Foundation; furthermore, he was an auctioneer, where he ran his auctions with well-known humor; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his wife, his parents, and his sister, Rowena Blazer, William Magee was predeceased by Ruth Ann Schultz, whose death was he and Jeanette's tragic loss; he is survived by his nieces,

Robin Blazer-Commins (David Commins) and Frances Blazer (Michael Collins); great-nephews, William Blazer and Daniel Perry; great-niece, Emma Blazer; brother-in-law, Robert Blazer; and cousin, Nina Mitchell, as well as countless other cousins and good friends; moreover, former staff, including Paula O'Brien, Troy Waffner, Christina Nowak, Grace Rapasadi, Laura Martino, and Kim DiGeorge, all became members of his family; and

WHEREAS, With his family residing in the Town of Nelson and surrounding area for well over 150 years, one can only imagine how many people are lucky enough to count this great man as a relation; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, William Magee 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; he will truly be missed by many; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to celebrate the life and accomplishments of former Assemblyman William Magee, and to express its deepest condolences to his family; and be it further

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