

## 2021-J680

Senate Resolution No. 680

BY: Senator KENNEDY

MOURNING the death of Stanislaw Markut, one of the last Polish veterans of World War II living in Western New York, 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 this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Stanislaw "Stanley" Markut of Sloan, New York, died on Sunday, March 21, 2021, at the age of 100, just shy of his 101st birthday; and

WHEREAS, Family members and friends made his 100th Birthday a special one; a police escort led the way in a parade honoring Stanley with dozens of vehicles driving by waving and wishing him a Happy Birthday while he sat on his front porch waving back; and

WHEREAS, Stanley Markut was born in 1920 near Lublin, Poland; he was training to become a woodworker, but the German Invasion of September 1st changed everything; after the fateful campaign and division of Poland, his area was occupied by the Soviets; and

WHEREAS, On February 10, 1940, at two in the morning, the Markut family were forcibly exiled from Eastern Poland to the forests of Soviet Siberia; and

WHEREAS, In August of 1941, amnesty was declared by Stalin but word did not reach the camp until much later; when it did, the remaining family and camp members were transported to an area near Tashkent in Khasziksthan; and

WHEREAS, In January of 1942, Stanley immediately joined the Polish Army; he was trained in a tank unit stationed in Scotland with the 1st Regiment, 1st Armoured Division of the Polish Army; and

WHEREAS, Together with Canadian forces, he rolled onto Juno Beach in support of post D-Day Invasions of Normandy 1944; he was wounded in the following bigger Battle of Falaise Gap, France; and

WHEREAS, Stanley Markut was ranked as a Sergeant and specialized as the main gunner in the Sherman tank; and

WHEREAS, For his military service, Stanley Markut was the recipient of numerous awards and accolades including: Polish Wounded Star (Purple Heart equivalent); Polish Army Medal, 1939/45 Star; France and Germany Star; British Defense and War Medal, and War Medal 1939-1945; and

WHEREAS, Stanley Markut was wise, generous, and disciplined; in addition, he was an avid gardener and a-man-of-all-work brightening the landscape of Buffalo's East Side and later Sloan; and

WHEREAS, After many years of dedicated service, Stanley Markut retired as a machinist from Buffalo Forge; and

WHEREAS, Active in his community, Stanley Markut was a proud member of various Polish and American civic clubs; he fought tenaciously for the legitimate rights of Polish WWII veterans while belonging to the Polish veteran groups of SPK Post No. 33 and SWAP Post No. 1; he was also a committed member of the ADHC family at the VA and the Polish American Congress of Western New York; he also founded the Polish Saturday School in Buffalo; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his wife, Antonina "Tola" (Klimaszewska) Markut; his brother, Jozef Szaja; and his sister, Zofia Woszczak; Stanley Markut is survived by his two children, Eulala "Lala" Markut and Antoni "Tony" (late Catherine) Markut; his three grandchildren, Krystyna (Francesco) Greco, Aniela (Mathew) Cardinal, Melysa (Timothy) Markut-Boyle; his five great-grandchildren, Athena, Peter, Aurora, Logan and Evelyn; and his brother, Janek Markut; as well as many nieces and nephews in the United States, Canada, England and Australia; he was also the loving surrogate Dad to Irena Woszczak; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Stanley Markut 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 Stanislaw Markut, one of the last Polish veterans of World War II living in Western New York, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community, 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 Stanislaw Markut.