

2021-J1635

Senate Resolution No. 1635

BY: Senator COONEY

MOURNING the death of The Honorable Arnold Ciaccio, former Monroe County Surrogate Court Judge, dedicated public servant and devoted member of his community

WHEREAS, There are certain outstanding members of our community who, through their selfless commitment and dedication, served to better the quality of life in their community and had a measurable positive impact on the lives of its residents; Arnold Ciaccio was one such individual; and

WHEREAS, The Honorable Arnold Ciaccio of Rochester, New York, died on Monday, November 1, 2021, at the age of 91; and

WHEREAS, Older Italians would approach Surrogate Judge Arnold "Arnie" Ciaccio, and call him avvocato; the Italian word for lawyer and advocate also was imbued with respect, a recognition that Judge Ciaccio was ready to help individuals in need, whether in a courtroom or outside the courthouse walls; and

WHEREAS, A Surrogate judge from 1983 to his retirement in 1999, Judge Arnold Ciaccio was widely respected by all; and

WHEREAS, Judge Arnold Ciaccio's parents were both Italian immigrants; his father Salvatore "Sam" Ciaccio was a union organizer and

one of the founders of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union and later president of the union and member of the AFL-CIO Council; and

WHEREAS, Arnold Ciaccio attended Benjamin Franklin High School, the University of Rochester, where he was a standout basketball player, and Harvard Law School where he was one of the first Italian-Americans to attend; and

WHEREAS, Fair, even tempered and kind to everyone, Judge Arnold Ciaccio was among the most respected members of the entire Rochester community; and

WHEREAS, In Irondequoit and Rochester, Judge Arnold Ciaccio was active in Democratic politics, serving as the party's town leader in Irondequoit; he worked on the campaigns of prominent Democrats, including Robert Kennedy's Senate campaign, Mario Cuomo's gubernatorial campaign, and the campaign of Hubert Humphrey for president; and

WHEREAS, A lawyer, Judge Arnold Ciaccio first ran for Surrogate's Court in 1982; the court helps resolve estate issues and determines guardianships for people no longer competent; its jurisdiction can range from decisions about the small estates of the indigent to familial or other fights over multi-million-dollar inheritances; and

WHEREAS, While on the bench, Judge Arnold Ciaccio made a significant decision that continued to be cited as precedent in later years; and

WHEREAS, After he left the bench because of mandatory retirement at the age of 70, Judge Arnold Ciaccio joined his son in his legal practice until he was 84 years-old; and

WHEREAS, Judge Arnold Ciaccio and his late wife, Victoria, were

life-long members of St. Salome Parish in Irondequoit; and

WHEREAS, Through his years of service as a judge, his political activism, extensive volunteer work, and most importantly his infallible humor and kindness, Judge Arnold Ciaccio dedicated his life to making Rochester a better place and was a role model for all who knew him; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his wife, Victoria who died in 2008, Judge Arnold Ciaccio is survived by his two sons, Christopher and James; and his four daughters, Mary, Andrea, Elizabeth and Margaret; as well as 19 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Judge Arnold Ciaccio 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 be deeply missed and truly merits the grateful tribute of this Legislative Body; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of The Honorable Arnold Ciaccio, former Monroe County Surrogate Court Judge, 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 The Honorable Arnold Ciaccio.