

2021-J2686

Senate Resolution No. 2686

BY: Senator HARCKHAM

MOURNING the death of Richard T. Hazzard, loving husband, father and grandfather, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community

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

WHEREAS, It is with profound sorrow and deep regret that this Legislative Body records the passing of Richard T. Hazzard, noting the significance of his purposeful life and accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Richard T. Hazzard of Patterson, New York, died on March 18, 2022 in Savannah, Georgia, at the age of 78; and

WHEREAS, Born on September 27, 1943 in Mount Kisco, New York, Richard T. Hazzard was the son of the late Herbert "Hap" and Marjorie (Wilkinson) Hazzard; and

WHEREAS, Growing up in Brewster, New York, Richard T. Hazzard graduated from Brewster High School in 1961; he went on to attend Simmons School of Mortuary Science in Syracuse, New York, before becoming a Licensed Funeral Director; and

WHEREAS, Richard T. Hazzard spent the majority of his career working at the Beecher Funeral Home in Brewster, a business he purchased in 1977, along with the Dwyer Funeral Home in Patterson; and

WHEREAS, On May 1, 1965, Richard T. Hazzard and the former Donna Mae McLagan were united in marriage at the United Methodist Church in Brewster; from humble beginnings, the couple raised four boys and committed themselves to their family, community, and funeral service; and

WHEREAS, Richard T. Hazzard, a sincere, caring and compassionate man, always put the needs of others ahead of himself; he never met a stranger and always greeted people with a smile and a handshake; and

WHEREAS, With a steadfast and unwavering commitment to his community, Richard T. Hazzard was an active member of countless local organizations, including the NYS Funeral Directors Association, Brewster Lion's Club, Brewster Volunteer Fire Department, Putnam Hospital Center, Putnam County Cooperative Extension, Patterson Volunteer Fire Department, BPO Elks Lodge No. 2101, Patterson Lion's Club, the Brewster, Patterson, North Salem Chamber of Commerce and the Patterson Library Association; and

WHEREAS, A man of indomitable faith and dedication, Richard T. Hazzard was a lifelong member of the United Methodist Church in Brewster, and a member and committee participant of the Holmes United Methodist Church; he was also a past President and current Board member

of the Maple Avenue Cemetery, as well as Board member of the Milltown Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, In his free time away from the business, Richard T. Hazzard

enjoyed taking his family on extended camping trips across the country and to the Chesapeake Bay; with a passion for sailing, he loved to be near the water at their Rhode Island home; he also loved to tinker and play handyman to keep busy, but rarely missed an episode of Jeopardy; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, his favorite toy and pastime was driving his 1959 MG on a beautiful summer day or taking the old Brewster Fire Chief's 1938 Chevy for a ride around Brewster; he liked to cook when he could, but his preference was eating out at restaurants with Donna and their closest friends; and

WHEREAS, After retirement, he and Donna traveled the world, making up for lost vacations from the 70s, 80s, and 90s; he loved a good thunderstorm and if there was a rocking chair nearby, you could always find him relaxed and peaceful; and

WHEREAS, Richard and Donna also became very close to the Waycross, Georgia community, where they lived during the winter months; over the years, their friendships grew, and they truly felt they were a part of this simple, peaceful place in the South; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the beautiful Southern weather, the couple loved to attend services at the Trinity United Methodist Church, and for the last several years the Kettle Creek Church; and

WHEREAS, Richard T. Hazzard is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 56 years, Donna; his four sons, Richard Jr. (Carol), Timothy (Kelly), Matthew (Jennifer) and Geoffrey (Heather); beloved grandchildren, Greer, Sloane, Alexa, Mikayla, Justin, Kiera, Dillan and Joshua; his brother, David (Louise); sisters-in-law Carol "Kiki" McLagan and Meriliss White; nephews, Ed (Lorrie) and Norman; niece, Jackie

(Ron); and the countless friends and business associates he considered family; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Richard T. Hazzard leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all who were privileged to have known and loved such an amazing man; 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 Richard T. Hazzard, 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 Richard T. Hazzard.