

2009-J2610

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Robert C. Wertz, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community

WHEREAS, It is with great sorrow and deep regret that this Legislative Body records the passing of Robert C. Wertz, noting the significance of his purposeful life and accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Robert C. Wertz of Port Jefferson, New York died on May 5, 2009, at the age of 76; and

WHEREAS, The Town Attorney for the Town of Smithtown, New York, from 1967 to 1970, Robert C. Wertz was first elected to the New York State Assembly in the 1970 general election and served for 32 years; and

WHEREAS, The longest serving Republican in the New York State Assembly, Robert C. Wertz was considered by his peers as the expert on health and mental health issues; he served as Deputy Minority Whip and was responsible for creating the Smithtown Library District and naming the Lady Bug as the New York State Insect; and

WHEREAS, Robert C. Wertz previously served as a Senior Attorney with the Appellate Division of the New York State Supreme Court, where he was assigned to protecting patients' rights at Kings Park State Hospital, and served six years with the Second Battalion, 25th Marines, U.S.M.C.R.; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Robert C. Wertz was a past Chairman of the National Executive Committee of the National Council of State Governments and the Eastern Regional Council of State Governments; and

WHEREAS, A member of the Suffolk County and New York State Bar Associations, Robert C. Wertz received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Alfred University and a Juris Doctor degree from Albany Law School; and

WHEREAS, A true citizen of Suffolk County, Robert C. Wertz believed in giving back to the community he loved so much; he founded the Commack Volunteer Ambulance Corps, was active in the Christ the King Holy Name Society, the Knights of Columbus, Catholic Charities and Saints Philip and James Catholic Church; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Robert C. Wertz was a member of the Advisory Boards of the Suffolk County Rehabilitation Center, the Maryhaven

School, the Academy of St. Joseph and the Cleary School for the Deaf and the Suffolk County Hypertension Co-Ordinating Council; and

WHEREAS, Robert C. Wertz was predeceased by his wife, Dorothy, and brother, Peter, and is survived by his three children, Mary (John) Fitzpatrick, Donna (Bob) Arao and Robert II (Kristen) Wertz, 14 grandchildren, Katelyn, Julie, Robert, Megan, Kenneth, James, Kelly, Robert III, Thomas, Brian, Ryan, Eric, Tyler and Julianna, and sister, Caryll Batterman, all of whom felt privileged to be a part of his life and rejoiced in his many achievements; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit, imbued with a sense of compassion, and comforted by a loving family, Robert C. Wertz 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 Robert C. Wertz, distinguished citizen 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 Robert C. Wertz.