

2009-J3534

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Joseph A. Tauriello, former New York State Senator

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

WHEREAS, A lifelong West Side Buffalo resident, Joseph A. Tauriello attended Grover Cleveland High School and was appointed to the United States Military Academy at West Point, but instead enrolled at the University of Buffalo; and

WHEREAS, In 1958, Joseph A. Tauriello began a 10-year stint with the Buffalo Fire Department as a firefighter; he eventually rose to the position of arson investigator in the Fire Prevention Bureau; and

WHEREAS, Inspired by his uncle, a former councilman and member of Congress, Joseph A. Tauriello won the 27th Ward seat of the Board of Supervisors in 1965, where he was a key figure in bringing Off Track Betting to Erie County, in Erie Community College affairs, and in the long controversy that eventually established the home of the Buffalo Bills in what is now Ralph Wilson Stadium; and

WHEREAS, In 1973, Joseph A. Tauriello was elected to the New York State Senate and emerged as a major Buffalo voice in the legislature and served as the minority whip; he was nominated to the New York State Workers' Compensation Board in 1980 by former Governor Hugh L. Carey; and

WHEREAS, A major figure in local and state Democratic politics for more than four decades, Joseph A. Tauriello never lost his political touch; he continued meeting and talking every day with voters in the coffee shops and gathering places in his longtime West Side political base; and

WHEREAS, Joseph A. Tauriello also had a long relationship with the military, joining the United States Army and graduating from Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia, as a first lieutenant; he later served as company commander of the 3rd Brigade Headquarters of the New York National Guard's 27th Division; and

WHEREAS, A member of the Western New York Reserve Officers Association, 74th/174th Infantry Regiment Veterans Association and the Holy Name Society of Holy Angels Catholic Church, Joseph A. Tauriello was part of a group of politicians, judges, newspapermen and others who gathered each Saturday for lunch and conversation about the affairs of the past week, where his political predictions proved almost always 100 percent accurate; and

WHEREAS, Joseph A. Tauriello is survived by his brother, Daniel; a sister, Lucille Mancinelli; and his longtime companion, JoAnn R. Joyce, 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, Joseph A. Tauriello 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 Joseph A. Tauriello, former New York State Senator; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Joseph A. Tauriello.