

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Ann Billittier, distinguished citizen and devoted member of her 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 the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Ann Billittier of Hamburg, New York died on Saturday, May 11, 2013, at the age of 83; and

WHEREAS, A native of Buffalo, New York, who was raised in the Town of Hamburg, Anna Billittier was married to the late Lou Billittier for 50 years; they met each other as kids in grammar school and both later founded Buffalo's iconic "Chef's Restaurant"; and

WHEREAS, Ann Billittier managed Chef's Restaurant by herself in the 1950s while her husband was serving overseas during the Korean War; it has become an iconic establishment for the city of Buffalo, and is a go-to place for many including celebrities, sports stars, and businessmen; tourists and visitors to Buffalo are also often recommended to eat at the landmark establishment; and

WHEREAS, While their restaurant business was growing, Ann and Lou Billittier stayed committed to helping the mentally ill, the physically challenged, and the children of the community; after the death of Lou in 2000, Ann Billittier founded the Louis J. Billittier Foundation, a charity that supported groups such as Buffalo Hearing and Speech Center, Bornhava, Variety Club of Buffalo, Roswell Park Cancer Institute and others; and

WHEREAS, Ann Billittier was a prominent figure at charity events in Buffalo throughout the years; recently, she was joined by her daughter, Mary Beth, to support her son John as the chairman of the Buffalo Hearing and Speech Center Gala at the Seneca Niagara Event Center; she was present for an event that supported the Bornhava School for children with special needs; and

WHEREAS, Ann Billittier was a member of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Athol Springs; she was a true asset to society; and

WHEREAS, Ann Billittier distinguished herself in her profession and by her sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of her community; and

WHEREAS, Ann Billittier's commitment to excellence, and her spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by her husband, Lou, Ann Billittier is survived by her children, Mary Beth and John; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Ann Billittier leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all she served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Ann Billittier, distinguished citizen and devoted member of her community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Ann Billittier.