

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Ronald G. Podolak upon the occasion of his retirement after 40 years of distinguished service to the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body seeks to acknowledge those individuals whose professional lives and civic endeavors serve to enhance the stature of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Ronald G. Podolak upon the occasion of his retirement after 40 years of distinguished service to the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District, to be celebrated on Thursday, November 15, 2012 at Sunset Restaurant in Auburn, New York; and

WHEREAS, Ronald G. Podolak began his career at the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District as an equipment operator/laborer in his late teens; and

WHEREAS, For the past 40 years, Ronald G. Podolak rendered faithful, conscientious and valuable service to the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District; and

WHEREAS, Blending his love for the land with a deep sense of practicality, Ronald G. Podolak played an important role in helping to develop, and eventually lead, what has become the foremost Conservation District in New York State and a nationally-honored steward of the environment; and

WHEREAS, In his capacity as Executive Director, Ronald G. Podolak served with loyalty, honor and distinction; and

WHEREAS, In his official acts, Ronald G. Podolak was governed by a keen sense of duty and always showed a unique grasp of human problems; and

WHEREAS, As Executive Director of the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District, Ronald G. Podolak presided over and expanded a wide-ranging array of conservation services to help safeguard local soil and water resources for the residents and businesses of Cayuga County, such as: lending technical support for streambank erosion control; animal waste storage and watering projects; harvesting weeds from area lakes to improve water quality; sponsoring educational programs such as the Envirothon for students; holding erosion and sedimentation control workshops for contractors and municipal workers; and staging County-wide recycling events; and

WHEREAS, In addition to these and many other services, Ronald G. Podolak and his staff worked tirelessly to develop a cutting-edge community digester that will use first-of-its-kind technology in North America to convert manure and food wastes into electricity and heat for the County campus located on County House Road, plus fertilizer and animal bedding for local farmers; and

WHEREAS, The District's achievements during Ronald G. Podolak's Executive Directorship have not gone unrecognized among its peers; twice in the past five years, the District has received the highest award given to conservation districts in New York; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, Ronald G. Podolak has received some of the highest accolades in his profession, including the 2012 Commendation Award from the New York Association of Conservation Districts, the 1996 Distinguished Service Award from the New York State Conservation District Employees Association, followed by the 2003 Northeast Conservation District Employees Choice Award; and

WHEREAS, A valued and involved member of his community, Ronald G. Podolak is a 3rd degree Knight for the Knights of Columbus, member of

Falcon Sportsmen's Club, Chair of the Town of Owasco Planning Board,

member of Ann Marie Buerkel's Ag Advisory Committee, and Director of the Cayuga County Farm Bureau Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Sara Podolak, and their two children, Jeffrey (Julie) Podolak and Laura Podolak, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, During his tenure with the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District, Ronald G. Podolak truly earned the admiration, esteem and affection of his colleagues; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the quality of life in their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to the maintenance of high standards in their profession, certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Ronald G. Podolak upon the occasion of his retirement after 40 years of distinguished service to the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Ronald G. Podolak.