

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Charles B. Swain, long-time Greene County minorities historian, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his 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, Charles B. Swain of Catskill, New York died on Sunday, December 22, 2013, at the age of 73; and

WHEREAS, Charles B. Swain distinguished himself in his profession and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community; and

WHEREAS, Charles B. Swain was a passionate historian who worked hard to shine light on the contributions of minorities in Greene County; a Catskill native, he was appointed in 1975; after lobbying hard for it, he became the first minorities historian in New York State, a position he held for almost 40 years; and

WHEREAS, As minorities historian, one of Charles B. Swain's first accomplishments was organizing the Greene County Black Cultural Festival in 1978; part of that effort involved gathering and documenting the history and contributions of blacks in Greene County; and

WHEREAS, Charles B. Swain had a particular interest in documenting and teaching about the accomplishments of African Americans in the Civil War; he was an avid reenactor, often dressing up as a Buffalo Soldier at Civil War reenactments, in part to honor his grandfather who was an actual Buffalo Soldier, a member of the United States Cavalry formed in 1866 by the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, One year, Charles B. Swain organized a popular all-black rodeo in Cairo, New York, which raised a significant amount for churches in Cossack and Cairo; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable man was a 26-year veteran of the United States Marine Corps; he also worked in the New York State Department of Corrections and the National Parks Service; and

WHEREAS, Charles B. Swain is survived by his son, Charles A. Swain; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Charles B. Swain 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 Charles B. Swain, long-time Greene County minorities historian, 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 Charles B. Swain.