

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Robert S. Vidler, Jr., 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, Robert S. Vidler, Jr. of Ithaca, New York, died on April 26, 2013, at the age of 88; and

WHEREAS, At a time when five and dime stores were going out of business, Robert S. Vidler, Jr. and his younger brother, Edward, took over their father's dry goods emporium on Main Street in East Aurora; over decades, the brothers turned Vidler's 5 & 10 into a beloved landmark in East Aurora; and

WHEREAS, The Vidler brothers had worked to keep their business strong and their customers happy; they expanded their space for toys, lunch boxes, stationery, sewing supplies and kitchen goods by buying three store fronts when those businesses closed; and

WHEREAS, Robert S. Vidler, Jr. and his brother loved to help their customers and would often take the time to write letters for patrons with developmental disabilities who came from a nearby home; and

WHEREAS, Robert S. Vidler, Jr. knew everybody, and talked to everyone; the store was like a community center; his people skills and his caring and kindness were his overriding qualities; and

WHEREAS, As a young man, Robert S. Vidler, Jr. attended Penn State University for one year before enlisting in the United States Navy; he served his country during World War II, and started officer training at Cornell University's Hotel School; and

WHEREAS, Robert S. Vidler, Jr. was a supply officer on a submarine chaser, earned the rank of lieutenant and, in subsequent years, took charge of organizing shipmate reunions; and

WHEREAS, Robert S. Vidler, Jr.'s commitment to excellence, and his spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, He served on the Village Board for several terms and was an active member of the Chamber of Commerce; he also loved the Welland Canal in Ontario, and kept track of the ships he saw go through the channel; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, Robert S. Vidler, Jr. enjoyed working at the annual Kiwanis Club chicken barbecues in Hamlin Park, so much so that the family procured the recipe for the dish so it could be made once he moved to Ithaca in 2004; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his daughter, Ann Fates, Robert S. Vidler, Jr. is survived by his brother, Edward, and two daughters, Sue Rakow and Phebe Cook; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Robert S. Vidler, Jr. 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 S. Vidler, Jr., 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 S. Vidler, Jr.