

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of renowned actor and luminary New Yorker Philip Seymour Hoffman

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor and recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the arts and culture of New York State, and therefore it is fitting and appropriate to recognize the life and work of Philip Seymour Hoffman; and

WHEREAS, It is the further sense of this Legislative Body to mourn the death of renowned actor and luminary New Yorker Philip Seymour Hoffman; and

WHEREAS, Born on July 23, 1967, in Fairport, New York, Philip Seymour Hoffman attended Fairport High School, where he captivated his teachers and fellow students playing the lead role of Willy Loman in "Death of a Salesman"; and

WHEREAS, He later attended the New York State Summer School of the Arts in Saratoga Springs and studied drama at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, which nurtured his incredible talent and allowed him to flourish and mature as an actor; and

WHEREAS, He found increasing recognition and acclaim for his supporting roles in films such as "The Big Lebowski", "Scent of a Woman", "Magnolia", "Boogie Nights", "The Talented Mr. Ripley", and "Punch-Drunk Love"; and

WHEREAS, He quickly became one of the most acclaimed and renowned lead actors in the world by starring in such films as "Capote", "Moneyball", "The Savages", "The Master", "Doubt", "Charlie Wilson's War", and many others; and

WHEREAS, Among his many nominations and awards for acting, Philip Seymour Hoffman most notably won an Academy Award and a Golden Globe for Best Actor for his memorable portrayal of Truman Capote, the legendary author, screenwriter, and playwright; and

WHEREAS, Philip Seymour Hoffman's performance in "Capote" remains an astounding demonstration of his ability to truly lose himself in his character, capturing Capote's idiosyncrasies and mannerisms with the utmost fidelity while laying bare Capote's emotional journey in his pursuit of a masterful work of literature; and

WHEREAS, Philip Seymour Hoffman was also an extremely accomplished stage actor, nominated three times for Tony Awards for his roles in "True West", "Long Day's Journey Into Night", and, once again, "Death of a Salesman"; his portrayal of Willy Loman prompted NEW YORK TIMES theater critic Ben Brantley to refer to him as "one of the finest actors of his generation"; and

WHEREAS, A caring and active member of his community in Greenwich Village, Philip Seymour Hoffman's family, friends, and neighbors knew him as a down-to-earth and genuine man who was consistently friendly and could often be seen around the neighborhood with his beloved children; and

WHEREAS, With his death on February 2, 2014, New York State lost a native son, one of the most accomplished actors of our time, a man who should have had many more happy years with his loved ones and continued to make incredible contributions to art and culture worldwide for years to come, to an addiction which abruptly resurfaced after years of sobriety; and

WHEREAS, Heroin addiction is a scourge which knows no boundaries, no race, no creed, no gender, and no socioeconomic status, and can destroy the life of anyone regardless of his or her upbringing or accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Heroin use has been on the rise both nationally and in New York State over the last decade, and it is incumbent upon this Legisla-

tive Body to help provide individuals struggling under the burden of this and similar addictions access to the treatment and services they need to fight this deadly disease; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of renowned actor and luminary New Yorker Philip Seymour Hoffman; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Philip Seymour Hoffman.