

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Paul Colby, 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, Paul Colby, the longtime owner of Greenwich Village's folk music club The Bitter End, died on February 13, 2014, at the age of 96; and

WHEREAS, Born in Philadelphia on October 4, 1917, Paul Colby and his family moved to the Lower East Side of Manhattan when he was five years old; he studied textile production in high school and served in the United States Army where he worked as a shipping clerk; and

WHEREAS, Paul Colby distinguished himself in his profession and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community; and

WHEREAS, Paul Colby entered the music business when he was hired by a publishing company to deliver sheet music; he worked his way up the ranks to music promoter, and was often used by Frank Sinatra for personal errands; and

WHEREAS, After struggling in the music industry, Paul Colby began a business making furniture, which he continued for ten years before deciding he wanted to be a part of the rising music scene in Greenwich Village; and

WHEREAS, Paul Colby purchased The Bitter End, located at 147 Bleecker Street near LaGuardia Place, in 1974 after spending nearly a decade as the manager and booking agent; it is New York City's oldest rock and roll club; and

WHEREAS, Paul Colby has touched the hearts of countless musicians and patrons and helped to launch many great careers in the music industry some of which include Bob Dylan, Joni Mitchell, Stevie Wonder, James Taylor, and countless others; and

WHEREAS, In addition, he showcased such comedians as Billy Crystal, Bill Cosby, and Ray Romano, and was instrumental in the development of the venue as a cornerstone of the Greenwich Village community; and

WHEREAS, Paul Colby's commitment to excellence, and his spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Among numerous awards and accolades, Paul Colby was honored in 2013 by the Civic Association Friends of LaGuardia Place for his contributions to the community; and

WHEREAS, Paul Colby is survived by his wife, Pamela Ann Wilson, and his brother, Morty; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to pay proper tribute to individuals of great character whose lives exemplify the highest ideals of humanity; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit, imbued with a sense of compassion, and comforted by a loving family, Paul Colby 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 Paul Colby, 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 Paul Colby.