

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of Ray L. Darling, Sr., 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, Ray Darling, Sr., of Grafton, New York, died on February 22, 2013, at the age of 68; and

WHEREAS, Born in Troy, New York, Ray Darling, Sr., was the son of the late Nelson C. and Alice Feathers Darling, Sr. and the husband of the late Carole Taplin Darling; he was a 1962 graduate of Tamarac High School, and earned his Associate in Applied Science degree in construction technology in 1964 from Hudson Valley Community College; and

WHEREAS, Ray Darling, Sr., served in the United States Army Reserves for years, including during the Vietnam era; he owned and operated Ray L. Darling Inc., a construction company he founded in Johnstown which currently operates in Grafton; and

WHEREAS, Prior to establishing his own business, Ray Darling, Sr., had been employed at various construction companies; in November of 2011, he was elected town supervisor of Grafton; and

WHEREAS, Ray Darling, Sr., also served on the Grafton Beautification Committee well as the Grafton Historical Society; he was an 11-time professional world-champion arm wrestler, having traveled much to compete both in the United States and abroad; and

WHEREAS, Ray Darling, Sr., was an ambassador, mentor and coach for the sport, including coaching Team USA at various competitions across the world; through his commitment to the sport of arm wrestling and to his community, he also sponsored numerous events for various organizations; and

WHEREAS, An avid hunter, Ray Darling, Sr., was a member of the Santoni Hunting Club in Tahaas, New York; and

WHEREAS, Ray Darling, Sr., distinguished himself in his profession and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community; and

WHEREAS, Ray Darling, Sr.'s commitment to excellence, and his spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his wife and parents, Ray Darling, Sr., is predeceased by his brothers, Robert and Theodore; he is survived by his children, Ray, Jr. (Kathy), and Scott (Kristine), and their mother, Patricia, along with his fiancée, Jodie, his siblings, Nelson (Jan), Diana (Terry), John (Julie), William (Barbara), a sister-in-law, Diana, and eight grandchildren, Elizabeth, Victoria, Madelyn, Audrey, Megan, Gabriel, Zachary and Ethin, as well as several nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Ray Darling, Sr., 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 Ray L. Darling, Sr., 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 Ray Darling, Sr.