

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Dr. Henry Judah Heimlich upon the 42nd Anniversary of developing the life-saving Heimlich maneuver and commending him on recently using the maneuver himself at the age of 96

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality of life in the communities across this great State of New York is enriched by the diligence and compassionate commitment of those individuals whose singular purpose is the care and welfare of others; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Dr. Henry Judah Heimlich upon the 42nd Anniversary of developing the life-saving Heimlich maneuver, and commending him on recently using the maneuver himself at the age of 96; and

WHEREAS, The simple but powerful procedure Dr. Henry J. Heimlich is used to treat upper airway obstructions by foreign objects; it has been adopted all over the world as the standard response to a choking situation; and

WHEREAS, A graduate of New Rochelle High School, Cornell University and Wells Cornell Medical College, Dr. Henry J. Heimlich first published his views about the maneuver in a June 1974 article in EMERGENCY MEDICINE; the published guidelines of the American Heart Association, the American Red Cross, the National Institute of Health and the National Safety Council have recommended the procedure as the preferred treatment for choking; and

WHEREAS, Recently, Dr. Henry J. Heimlich used the emergency technique himself to save a woman who was choking on food at his senior living center; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Henry J. Heimlich was enjoying his steak in the dining room of the Deupree House, a senior living community in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he now lives, when he suddenly noticed a woman next to him started choking; and

WHEREAS, Without hesitation, he reached his arms around the choking woman's body and did what he does best: grasped his left fist in his right hand and thrust quickly and upward; he continued doing this until a piece of hamburger was dislodged from the woman's throat; and

WHEREAS, The woman was Patty Gill Ris, an 87-year-old resident who had just moved to the community in March and was dining with Dr. Henry J. Heimlich for the first time; he reportedly used the procedure just one time before when he was 80 years-old; and

WHEREAS, The retired chest surgeon felt much gratification after knowing the technique he developed continues to be a relevant procedure which has successfully saved many lives over the past four decades; and

WHEREAS, In his spontaneous and heroic act, Dr. Henry J. Heimlich has so aptly demonstrated his character and compassion for the welfare of others; personifying, by virtue of his action, the collective concern of individuals across the community of New York State who voluntarily respond when others are in need of help; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Dr. Henry Judah Heimlich upon the 42nd Anniversary of developing the life-saving Heimlich maneuver, and to commend him on recently using the maneuver himself at the age of 96; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dr. Henry J. Heimlich.