

**BY:** Senator JACOBS

**MOURNING** the death of Thomas J. Diehl, Town of Tonawanda Police Lieutenant, hockey coach and devoted member of his community

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to convey its grateful appreciation and heartfelt regret in recognition of the loss of a courageous police officer who dedicated his purposeful life and career in faithful service to his family, community and the State of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** It is with profound sadness that this Legislative Body records the passing of 33-year-old Town of Tonawanda Police Lieutenant, Thomas J. Diehl, on Monday, April 10, 2017; and

**WHEREAS,** Born in Buffalo, New York, Thomas J. Diehl was a 2001 graduate of Kenmore East High School; after graduation, he earned his bachelor's degree in communications from the University at Buffalo in 2005; and

**WHEREAS,** Shortly thereafter, Thomas J. Diehl joined the Town of Tonawanda Police Department, where he served as a police officer for nearly 11 years before taking a leave in 2016 due to illness; and

**WHEREAS,** In addition to his role as a police officer, Thomas J. Diehl was an instructor in defensive tactics at the Erie County Law Enforcement Training Academy; and

**WHEREAS,** Throughout his meritorious career, Thomas J. Diehl was the recipient of numerous awards and accolades for his exceptional police work including a Report of Commendation, a Certificate of Recognition and two Letters of Recognition, as well as an American Legion Certificate of Distinguished Achievement; and

**WHEREAS,** A lifelong hockey player, Thomas J. Diehl had been a youth hockey coach for more than 15 years; he was the head coach of the 2005-06 Town of Tonawanda Lightning Squirt Major team, which won the New York State Tier II Championship; he also held the title of Vice President of the Lightning organization for more than 10 years; and

**WHEREAS,** Thomas J. Diehl became a volunteer Assistant Hockey Coach at Kenmore East in 2007, and helped guide the Bulldogs to state championships in 2012 and 2016; for his steadfast and unrelenting commitment to the students and the school as a whole, he received the 2016 Cornerstone Award; and

**WHEREAS,** Thomas J. Diehl is survived by his wife, Dawn M. Diehl; two sons, Tony Diehl and Thomas "T.J." Diehl, Jr.; two daughters, Summer Diehl and Teagan Diehl; his parents, James E. and Shawn Diehl; and a sister, Jaime K. Pichette; and

**WHEREAS,** A devoted father and husband, respected as a pillar of the community, Thomas J. Diehl's name is synonymous with character, dignity, intellect, depth and humor, qualities evident to his family and to all those who were fortunate enough to have known him; he will be deeply missed and truly merits the grateful tribute of this Legislative Body; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Thomas J. Diehl, Town of Tonawanda Police Lieutenant, hockey coach 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 Thomas J. Diehl.