

**BY:** Senator SEWARD

**COMMENDING** Ellard L. Sovocool upon the occasion of his retirement as Groton town councilman after 46 years of distinguished public service on December 31, 2016

**WHEREAS,** This Legislative Body seeks to acknowledge those individuals whose professional lives and civic endeavors serve to enhance the stature of the State of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those individuals who are devoted to the welfare of their community and its citizenry; and

**WHEREAS,** Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Ellard L. Sovocool upon the occasion of his retirement as Groton town councilman after 46 years of distinguished public service; and

**WHEREAS,** This auspicious milestone will be celebrated at a reception held in his honor on Saturday, February 11, 2017, at Stonehedges Golf Course, in Groton, New York; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1955, Ellard L. Sovocool enlisted in the armed services and proudly served his country as a member of the United States Army; in 1958, Private First Class Sovocool was selected to participate in the interment ceremonies for the Unknown Soldiers of World War II and Korea at the Arlington National Cemetery; and

**WHEREAS,** After his discharge, Ellard L. Sovocool returned to his hometown, where he married and raised his family; he worked at Smith Corona for many years and enjoyed playing baseball for the Peter and Sons Ford Team; and

**WHEREAS,** Ellard L. Sovocool began his service with the Town of Groton on January 1, 1971; he officially retired from this position on December 31, 2016; and

**WHEREAS,** This remarkable public servant holds the New York State record for being the longest continuously serving town councilman in the state; throughout his tenure, he never lost an election or had a break in service; and

**WHEREAS,** A man of true integrity, Ellard L. Sovocool leads by example; he has served the Town of Groton with distinction, enthusiasm, dedication and honor, and has overseen countless initiatives that have made his community a better and stronger place to live; and

**WHEREAS,** For the past 46 years, Ellard L. Sovocool rendered

faithful, conscientious and valuable service to the Town of Groton earning the admiration, esteem and affection of his colleagues; and

**WHEREAS,** Rare indeed is the occurrence of such a compassionate blending of strength, leadership, intellect, and commitment as that demonstrated by Ellard L. Sovocool over a lifetime of sacrifice and dedication to others; and

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Ellard L. Sovocool upon the occasion of his retirement as Groton town councilman after 46 years of distinguished public service, and to wish him continued success in all of his future endeavors; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Ellard L. Sovocool.