

Assembly Resolution No. 508

BY: M. of A. Heastie

HONORING the memory of the deceased members of the New York State Assembly, in recognition of their careers in public service

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that the quality and character of life in this great Empire State is enriched by the efforts of those individuals who commit their lives to public service; and

WHEREAS, The Assembly, representing the people of the State of New York, is moved this day to pay tribute to recently deceased members of the New York State Assembly who include: Frank J. Barbaro, Ray Chesbro, John T. Flack, Thomas R. Frey, Robert Garcia, Benjamin A. Gilman, R. Stephen Hawley, Ivan Lafayette, Murray Lewinter, Helen M. Marshall, William R. Nojay, Joseph T. Pillittere and Clarence D. Rappleyea; and

WHEREAS, Born on December 18, 1927, to immigrant parents in Brooklyn, New York, Frank J. Barbaro was first elected to the New York State Assembly in 1972 to represent the 47th Assembly District; and

WHEREAS, During his 24 years of distinguished service, Frank J. Barbaro was a fierce advocate for organized labor, tenants and minority groups; upon retiring from the Legislature, he went on to serve as a Justice for the New York State Supreme Court from 1996-2003; and

WHEREAS, Survived by his wife of 19 years, Patty, his three daughters and four grandchildren, Frank J. Barbaro died on Sunday, September 4, 2016, at the age of 88; and

WHEREAS, Born and raised on a farm in Pennellville, New York, Ray Chesbro was appointed Deputy Sheriff of Oswego County in 1953 and rose through the ranks holding several positions including: Identification Office, Investigator and Lieutenant; in 1973, he was appointed as Sheriff of Oswego County; and

WHEREAS, First elected to the New York State Assembly in 1980 to represent the 117th Assembly District, Ray Chesbro focused on the needs of law enforcement and agriculture; in this capacity, he served as a member on the Agriculture and Tourism Committee, along with committees on Aging, Transportation, Arts and Sports Development, and as Ranking Minority Member of the House Operations Committee; and

WHEREAS, Ray Chesbro died on Friday, March 3, 2017, at the age of 91; he is survived by his wife of 70 years, Eileen; his three sons, Gary (Adrienne), Ray (Eleanor) and Scott; five grandchildren, Jennifer, Joanne, Alexander, Kimberly and Kyle; and five great-grandchildren, Sabrina, Kenneth, Bryanna, Lydia and Richard, as well as several nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, Born in Brooklyn, New York, on November 4, 1928, John T.

Flack proudly served his country as a member of the United States Air Force from 1950-1954; and

WHEREAS, John T. Flack served as a New York State Assemblymember, representing the 33rd Assembly District from 1969-1982; in addition, he was President of the Library Park Homeowners Association, and a member of Parents and Taxpayers, Knights of Columbus, Catholic War Veterans, Polish Legion of American Veterans, American Legion, Greater Ridgewood Historical Society, Glendale Catholic Church, St. Pancras Roman Catholic Church and Holy Name Society; and

WHEREAS, John T. Flack died on Friday, August 19, 2016, at the age of 87; predeceased by his wife, the former Elfriede K. Muller, his son, Christopher, and grandson, John Palmato, Jr., he is survived by his two children, John and Linda; four grandchildren, Sharon, Jennifer, Elizabeth and Christopher; and one great-granddaughter, Peyton; and

WHEREAS, Born in Corning, New York, Thomas R. Frey proudly served his country as a member of the United States Marines; upon his discharge, he attended Princeton University before graduating from Boalt Hall, the law school of the University of California at Berkeley; and

WHEREAS, Thomas R. Frey served in the New York State Assembly from 1973 until 1977, representing the 132nd Assembly District; he acted as Director of State Operations to Governor Hugh Carey, then as General Counsel to the New York State Power Authority; he also served on the Board of The Heastman House, Board of AIDS Rochester, Board of the Mental Health Association, Board of Rochester General Hospital, and as a Trustee to the New York State Power Authority and a New York State Regent; and

WHEREAS, Thomas R. Frey died on Saturday, February 11, 2017; predeceased by his parents, Rena and Sebastian; two brothers, Jack and Jim; and three sisters, Teresa, Mary and Gerry; he is survived by his wife, the former Jacqueline Cady; his three daughters, Sarah, Kate (Quentin Gable) and Jen (David Jones); one son, Matt (Melissa); and four grandchildren, Cella, Griffin, Ana and Charlotte; as well as two sisters, Kay Canty, Rosanne Clancy and a brother, Dick Frey; and

WHEREAS, Born in the Bronx, New York, on January 9, 1933, Robert Garcia was the son of immigrant parents who were from the United States Territory of Puerto Rico; in 1950, he proudly served his country as a member of the United States Army during the Korean War as a Radio Operator with the Third Infantry Division; and

WHEREAS, Robert Garcia was elected to the New York State Assembly in 1966 to represent the 83rd Assembly District; in 1968, he took his seat in the State Senate, where he remained for 10 years; from 1975-1978, he acted as the Deputy Minority Leader for the Senate; he furthered his political career by being elected to the United States Congress from his district in 1978; he held that esteemed position for 12 years; and

WHEREAS, At the age of 84, Robert Garcia died on Friday, January 25, 2017; he is survived by his wife, Jane; a sister, Aimee; two sons, Robert and Kenneth; one daughter, Rosalyn; two stepsons, Edward and

Robert; and two stepdaughters, Caroline and Kirsten, as well as 15 grandchildren and step-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Born on December 6, 1922, in Poughkeepsie, New York, Benjamin A. Gilman proudly served his country as a member of the Army Air Corps During World War II; for his selfless dedication to the United States, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal for 35 missions over Japan; and

WHEREAS, After serving as a member of the New York State Assembly from 1967-1972, representing the 95th Assembly District, Benjamin A. Gilman went on to serve as a member of the United States House of Representatives, serving under seven presidents during his 30-year term; in this capacity, he was Chairman of the House Committee on International Relations during the 1990s; and

WHEREAS, Benjamin A. Gilman died on Saturday, December 17, 2016, at the age of 94; predeceased by his son, David, and daughter, Ellen, he is survived by his wife, Georgia; two sons, Jonathan (Monica) and Harrison; two daughters, Susan and Nicole (Nicholas); and one stepson, Peter (Jody), as well as 11 grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Born on December 16, 1921, in Batavia, New York, R. Stephen Hawley proudly served his country for three years as a member of the United States Army, two years in the China-Burma-India Theatre as Captain in the Field Artillery during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Elected to the New York State Assembly in 1973 to represent the 137th Assembly District, R. Stephen Hawley remained a State Representative until his retirement in 1993; during his career in government, his proudest achievement was the establishment of the New York State Veterans Home in Batavia; and

WHEREAS, R. Stephen Hawley died on Thursday, August, 25, 2016, at the age of 94; predeceased by his first wife, Ellen, his brother, Warren, and two sisters, Elizabeth and Nancy, he is survived by his wife, Gennette; his three sons, Stephen M. (Theresa), James and Theodore (Patricia); two daughters, Susan and Charlotte (Chris); two step-daughters, Susan (Edward), and Barbara; and 10 grandchildren and five step-grandchildren, as well as many great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, Born on July 28, 1930, in Monticello, New York, Ivan Lafayette grew up in Brooklyn; he proudly served his country as a member of the United States Army from 1952-1954 before moving to Jackson Heights, New York, with his wife in 1956; and

WHEREAS, Ivan Lafayette served in the New York State Assembly from 1977 until 2008, representing the 34th Assembly District; in addition, he was Speaker Pro Tempore and Deputy Speaker; he sponsored numerous bills including the Truth in Testing Law for college applicants; the Uninsured Motorist's Law, and the law which allowed the creation of banking development districts to spur economic growth in certain areas; and

WHEREAS, Ivan Lafayette died on October 4, 2016, at the age of 86; he is survived by his wife, Bertine, three sons and nine grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Born in the Bronx, New York, on December 12, 1926, Murray Lewinter proudly served his country in World War II; and

WHEREAS, Elected to the New York State Assembly in 1961, Murray Lewinter represented the 6th Assembly District until 1965; he was then appointed Executive Director of the New York City Council and served as a Law Secretary for a Supreme Court Judge in the Bronx; later, he became Executive Director of the Ways and Means Committee in Albany, New York, before retiring to become a lobbyist; and

WHEREAS, Murray Lewinter died on Saturday, July 2, 2016, at the age of 89; he is survived by his wife of 40 years, Iris, along with his stepchildren, Solitar and Debbie Murray, and five grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Born in Harlem, New York, on September 30, 1929, Helen M. Marshall graduated from Queens College with a bachelor's degree in education; upon graduation, she was an early childhood education teacher for eight years; and

WHEREAS, Before entering politics, Helen M. Marshall was active in her East Elmhurst community; she was a member of the City Council for 10 years before being elected to the New York State Assembly where she served from 1983 until 1991, representing the 35th Assembly District; she furthered her political career by serving three four-year terms as Queens Borough President; in this capacity, she focused on library projects and created the Queens General Assembly, which promoted cross-cultural exchanges among ethnic groups; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by her husband, Donald, Helen M. Marshall is survived by two children, Donald Jr. and Agnes Marie; and one sister, Joan; she died on Saturday, March 4, 2017, at the age of 87; and

WHEREAS, Born November 24, 1956, in Rochester, New York, William R. "Bill" Nojay was appointed as Commissioner of the Rochester Genesee Regional Transportation Authority in 1996; he also served as a member of the Executive Committee of the Genesee Transportation Counsel, and Chairman of the Regional Trails Initiative Steering Committee for the Rochester region; and

WHEREAS, After his career as a business attorney with the law firm Hiscock and Barclay and the host of a daily radio show which ran on several stations around Upstate New York, William R. Nojay represented the 133rd Assembly District from January 2013 until his death; and

WHEREAS, On Friday, September 9, 2016, William R. Nojay died at the age of 59; predeceased by his brother, Robert; stepson, Patrick; grandparents, Anna and William Randtke and Lottie and Joseph Nogaj, he is survived by his parents, Normal and Katherine Nogaj; his wife, Debra; and his three children, Matthew, Kiva and Elizabeth; and

WHEREAS, Born in Buffalo, New York, Joseph T. Pillittere proudly served his country as a member of the United States Navy from 1955 until being honorably discharged in 1957; he continued to serve in the Navy Reserve until 1961; and

WHEREAS, During his lifetime, Joseph T. Pillittere served as an Assemblyman of the 138th District in New York State from 1979 until 1998; during his 11 terms, he initiated the Right to Know Law, implemented the Superfund Act associated with the Love Canal, and assisted the development of Niagara Falls High School; and

WHEREAS, Joseph T. Pillittere died on Friday, June 24, 2016, at the age of 83; predeceased by his wife, the former Joan A. Bella; three brothers, Russell (late Irene), Vincent, and David; sister, Phyllis; and daughter, Georgine; he is survived by his two sons, Donald and Joseph Jr.; his two daughters, Michelle (Richard) and Jennifer (Matthew); one sister, Marida; and 12 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, as well as several nieces, nephews and cousins; and

WHEREAS, Born on November 2, 1933, in Norwich, Chenango County, New York, Clarence D. "Rapp" Rappleyea served as City Attorney of Norwich, and was active in an array of charitable and civic organizations throughout Chenango County; and

WHEREAS, For more than 22 years, Clarence D. Rappleyea served in the New York State Assembly, representing the 122nd Assembly District; elected in November of 1972, he became the Minority Leader in January of 1983, which he held until 1995; he went on to serve as Chairman of the New York Power Authority, the position from which he officially retired in 2001; and

WHEREAS, Clarence D. Rappleyea died on Sunday, September 4, 2016, at the age of 82; predeceased by his parents, Clarence Sr. and Mary, and brother, Ronald Coleman, he is survived by his wife of 60 years, Nancy Oates Rappleyea; three daughters, Pam (Don), Stacy (Rob Towne), and Susan (Paul); seven grandchildren, Jacob (Amanda), Zachary (Kara), Sam Towne, Sarah Towne, Katherine (Lucas), Mia and Matthew; four great-grandchildren, Gracelyn, Charlie, Benedict, and Molly; one sister in law, Dorothy Benenati; a brother-in-law, Frank, two brothers, Richard and Robert; and a sister, Linda (Coleman); as well as numerous nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, It is with hope that future generations understand the values of public service to the citizens of this great Empire State, while this Legislative Body recognizes these 13 former members of the New York State Assembly; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the memory of the 2016-2017 deceased members of the New York State Assembly, in recognition of their careers in public service; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed be

transmitted to the families of the aforementioned Assembly members.