

BY: Senator JACOBS

MOURNING the death of Richard Hilliman,
distinguished citizen, sailboat captain, and beloved
family man

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, Richard "Ric" Hilliman of Hamburg, New York, died on March 4, 2020 at the age of 71; and

WHEREAS, A graduate of Lafayette High School, Richard Hilliman grew up in Buffalo's West Side; he worked during his early life as a Salesman and later as a Sales Manager; and

WHEREAS, Richard Hilliman and his wife, the former Katherine Ann Lipinski, shared a passion for sailing that began after they met as teenagers; they spent weekends at Sherkston Beach, renting small sailboats and later, while raising their three children, they bought their first sailboat, a hobie cat; the couple sailed on Lake Erie, the Kinzua Dam, and Allegheny Reservoir; their next boat, Miss Kathy, was a small sailboat they enjoyed taking out for many years; and

WHEREAS, While studying for his captain's license, Richard Hilliman volunteered on the Buffalo fireboat, named Edward M. Cotter; he then became a captain for several tour boat companies, including Miss Buffalo, Lockport Locks, Erie Canal Cruises and Moondance; and

WHEREAS, In 2008, Richard Hilliman began piloting the Spirit of Buffalo; he and his son, Rich started the Queen City Bike Ferry and Buffalo River History Tours; and

WHEREAS, In the beginning, Richard Hilliman had one boat and four employees, which were all family members; his company grew to four boats with more than 50 seasonal employees; and

WHEREAS, Richard Hilliman distinguished himself in his profession and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his wife, Katherine, and his son Rich, Richard Hilliman is survived by another son, Brian; one daughter, Kelly; and two sisters, Joan and Theresa; as well as six grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Richard Hilliman 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 Richard Hilliman, distinguished citizen, sailboat captain, and beloved family man; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Richard Hilliman.