

BY: Senator JACOBS

CONGRATULATING Mr. and Mrs. James Ratka upon the occasion of celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body takes great pleasure in paying tribute to those flourishing marriages that have stood the test of time to serve as a paradigm for present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. James Ratka upon the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary; the couple celebrated their Golden Anniversary surrounded by loved ones, with a party held in their honor at Russell's Steaks, Chops and More in Lancaster, New York; and

WHEREAS, James Ratka and the former Mary Jane Chirico of Hamburg, New York, were united in marriage on November 30, 1968, at Saint Florian Catholic Church in Buffalo, New York; and

WHEREAS, They are the proud parents of three children, and the loving grandparents of two grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Retired now, James Ratka had a long and prosperous career as a Manager for National Fuel Gas Company; Mary Jane Ratka works as a part-time Senior Account Clerk for Erie Community College; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. James Ratka are and always have been a tower of strength, support, understanding and limitless love for their family; and

WHEREAS, Their love, devotion, caring, sensitivity and responsiveness to their family, friends and all who know them are their hallmark and tradition; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. James Ratka have lived and continue to live their lives with great dignity and genuine grace, always demonstrating a deep and continuing concern for human values and ideals, and in so doing, they have inspired others to do the same; and

WHEREAS, This meaningful occasion is the result of the love, hard work and spirit this couple has invested in their marriage; and

WHEREAS, These same values they have passed to their loved ones, producing a family that is close-knit and supportive of its individual members, public-minded in its relations to the community and committed to the ideals of citizenship upon which this Nation was founded; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. James Ratka have touched the lives of their family and many friends through the shining example of their marriage, which is a testament to the devotion and admiration which they possess for one another; and

WHEREAS, The longevity of this enduring marriage truly marks a milestone in life's journey, an event of personal triumph and joy; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when an occasion of such importance is brought to our attention, the same should be memorialized by us for the edification and emulation of others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. James Ratka upon the occasion of celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Mr. and Mrs. James Ratka.