

BY: M. of A. Brabenec

CELEBRATING the life and accomplishments of The Honorable Bernard Rosenfeld, renowned public servant, devoted educator and dedicated member of his community

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to mourn publicly the death of certain prominent individuals whose valued contributions to their community and their profession served to enhance the quality of life in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Bernard Rosenfeld, founding Mayor of the Village of Kaser, New York, died on Monday, December 31, 2018, at the age of 71; and

WHEREAS, Bernard Rosenfeld was born to the late Elimelech and Baila Rosenfeld on May 27, 1947, in the D.P. Camp in Windsheim, Germany; three years later, he and his family immigrated to Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, At the young age of 15, Bernard Rosenfeld traveled to Israel where he studied at the Yeshiva-Rabbinical College, which was founded by the former Grand Rabbi Chaim Meir Hager of the Viznitz sect; in 1966, he returned to the United States, and married Rivka Rosenfeld; together, they settled in Monsey, New York, where they raised their children; and

WHEREAS, Bernard Rosenfeld began his long and distinguished career as an educator when he founded the Viznitz School in 1970; he served as a ninth grade teacher, and Principal, and then in 1978, assumed the title of School Administrator, a position he held for four decades; and

WHEREAS, In this capacity, Bernard Rosenfeld accomplished numerous goals which greatly benefitted the school and the Viznitz community as a whole; he was instrumental in the construction of many school buildings, and led the institution with wise direction and a steadfast and unrelenting commitment; and

WHEREAS, In 1990, Bernard Rosenfeld became the first Mayor of the Village of Kaser, located in the Town of Ramapo, New York; throughout his tenure, he worked on numerous community projects to enhance the quality of life of all residents of this newly formed village; he arranged for both low-income and senior housing, instituted senior programs, kept property taxes at a low rate, undertook many road enhancement and safety projects, worked to eliminate flood zones in residential areas through major drainage projects, and created parks and various recreational projects; and

WHEREAS, A kind and wise man, Mayor Bernard Rosenfeld was always available to listen to each and every one of his constituents; he advocated for individuals who needed special assistance and promoted many school projects for the benefit of all the children in the community; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Bernard Rosenfeld was sincerely loved and greatly respected by all those with whom he worked; he understood the importance of maintaining a mutually beneficial relationship with the surrounding municipalities, local politicians, and all surrounding neighbors to ensure that all parties worked together for the benefit of their people; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Bernard Rosenfeld is survived by his loving wife, Rivka, his sons and daughters, and his many friends who will long cherish his memory; and

WHEREAS, A man of great compassion and determination, Mayor Bernard Rosenfeld's legacy extends far beyond his accomplishments as a successful public servant; his sincere concern for others; his integrity, unconditional friendship and selfless motivation to give of himself, will long stand as a beacon for those who would aspire to service in their community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to celebrate the life and accomplishments of Mayor Bernard Rosenfeld, renowned public servant, devoted educator and dedicated member of his community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of The Honorable Bernard Rosenfeld.