

**BY:** Senator AKSHAR

**CONGRATULATING** Gordon E. Kniffen upon the occasion of his retirement after nearly 70 years of distinguished service to the Town of Kirkwood, New York

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor those distinguished citizens of this great Empire State who have devoted themselves to faithfully serving the best interests of their community and the needs of its residents; and

**WHEREAS,** Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Gordon E. Kniffin upon the occasion of his retirement after nearly 70 years of distinguished service to the Town of Kirkwood, New York; and

**WHEREAS,** Gordon E. Kniffin, affectionately known as Gordi, began his illustrious career in public service with the Town of Kirkwood as a young man; after serving as both a member and Chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals from 1970-1976, he began his long and distinguished career with the Kirkwood Town Board serving as Councilman from 1977-2003, and then Supervisor until his official retirement on December 30, 2020; and

**WHEREAS,** Throughout his tenure with the Board, Gordon E. Kniffin was instrumental in developing numerous programs and projects which greatly benefited the residents of Kirkwood, some of which include the complete overhaul of its Benefits Plan; the establishment of two sewer district, Bells School and Colesville Road; consolidation of its water districts; providing affordable senior housing; elimination and removal of blighted properties; located grants for two of its major projects; completed a road and built a boat launch and organized a beautification committee; and

**WHEREAS,** The Town Board also fought for aid after two devastating floods, organized a Memorial Day celebration, hosted senior citizen picnics, brought together two fire districts to better protect the town, and implemented a tax cap program; and

**WHEREAS,** Gordon E. Kniffin was also devoted to the young people of Kirkwood serving in various capacities such as coach for the youth baseball for 59 years, director of the town youth basketball program, and 17 years as leader and organizer of the annual children's Christmas party; and

**WHEREAS,** This dedicated public servant and sports fan was also the coach of the town's flag football program and director of the Pony Baseball League; and

**WHEREAS,** During his much-deserved retirement, Gordon E. Kniffin

plans to remain a presence in his community and will continue to help beautify the town; and

**WHEREAS,** For nearly 70 years, Gordon E. Kniffin rendered faithful, conscientious and valuable service to the Town of Kirkwood, 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 Gordon E. Kniffin over a lifetime of sacrifice and dedication to others; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Gordon E. Kniffin upon the occasion of his retirement after nearly 70 years of distinguished service to the Town of Kirkwood, New York, and to wish him well in all his future endeavors; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Gordon E. Kniffin.