

BY: Senator AKSHAR

MOURNING the death of Ronald E. Dougherty, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community

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 this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Ronald E. Dougherty of Owego, New York, died on Tuesday, November 23, 2021, at the age of 89; and

WHEREAS, Ronald E. Dougherty was born in Candor, New York, in 1932, the beloved son of Isabell Kotula; and

WHEREAS, In 1950, Ronald E. Dougherty graduated as the Salutatorian of his class and married his high school sweetheart, Brenda Drury, on December 5th of that same year in the little church around the corner in New York City; and

WHEREAS, Ronald E. Dougherty distinguished himself in his profession and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community; and

WHEREAS, He left his family farm and joined IBM in 1957; he retired in 1987, after a successful career as a functional level manager; and

WHEREAS, In May 1988, he joined the Tioga County Legislature and became Tioga County Legislative Chairman in 1990, retiring in 1995; and

WHEREAS, He worked for the Tioga County Industrial Development Association (IDA) on the Lounsbury Development Site and was instrumental in establishing the Best Buy Warehouse Building and the Initial Anchor Terminal in Lounsbury; and

WHEREAS, Ronald E. Dougherty was the initial President of the Rural Economics Area Partnership (REAP), and the Tioga County Council of Local Governments; he and his partner, Steve Hendrickson, were involved, along with others, in the Owego Pool Project and in establishing the Municipal Electric and Gas Alliance (MEGA); and

WHEREAS, While Chairman of the Legislature, with the assistance of the late Glen Carter, he helped establish the Council of Economic Development and Planning; he was also on the Tioga County Soil and Water and Farm Bureau Board of Directors, the Tioga County Bank Board, and the Board of Sayre Guthrie Clinic; and

WHEREAS, Ronald E. Dougherty's commitment to excellence, and his spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Ronald E. Dougherty was a member of the Owego Kiwanis and Elks; on September 2014, to honor his many contributions to Tioga County, the Tioga County Legislature renamed the municipal building on 56 Main Street in Owego, the Ronald E. Dougherty Building; and

WHEREAS, For 41 years, Ronald E. Dougherty was a School Board member, joining the Tioga Central School Board in 1966; two years later he was elected President of the Board and in this capacity, led the 1972 construction of the current Tioga Central High School; and

WHEREAS, He left the Tioga Central School Board in 1977, and joined the Broom Tioga BOCES Board of Education where he served as President from 1985-2005, including being named New York State School Board Member of the Year in 1995; and

WHEREAS, To recognize his exemplary service, BOCES created the annual Ronald E. Dougherty Award, bestowed upon an employee who best exemplifies the spirit and dedication that were the hallmarks of his many years of service to both the school and his community; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Ronald E. Dougherty was awarded the BOCES 2006 President Recognition Award, Boy Scouts of America 1997 Outstanding Citizen, Candor Bicentennial Recognition, 2000 Congressional Recognition Award, IBM 25 Year Service Award, Jim Bostwick Agricultural Award, Mario Cuomo 1992 Law, New York State Rural Schools Anne Paulin 2006 Distinguished Service Award, Ronald Dougherty Day Proclamation by Mayor Fink in 2000, Rotary 1998 Paul Harris Award, TC3 Friends of the College Award and Plaque in 2004, Tioga County 2001 Rural Ministry Award Plaque, and Tioga County 2000 Senior Citizen of the Year Plaque; and

WHEREAS, Ronald E. Dougherty had a firm belief that a person should leave their world better than they found it, and he used his talents to make Tioga County a better place to live in and raise a family; and

WHEREAS, Ronald E. Dougherty credited his wife with giving him the ability to do for his community, the acts of service he was so gifted to be able to share with the community he so loved; and

WHEREAS, He was born, baptized, and raised in the Baptist church; in adulthood, he raised 10 children with his wife in the Roman Catholic Church, and was officially welcomed into the Catholic church by way of the RCIA program in 2002; at the time of his death, Ronald E. Dougherty was a parishioner at St Patrick's Church in Owego; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by one son, Ronald E. Dougherty, Jr., and one great-grandson, Odin Dougherty, Ronald E. Dougherty is survived by his wife of 71 years, Brenda Dougherty; 10 children, Mary (Al) Wolski, Patrick (Cindy) Dougherty, Colleen (Roger) Anderson, Daniel (Laura) Dougherty, John (Cathy) Dougherty, Brian (Sally) Dougherty, Rhonda (Dan) Christie, Lisa (Brian) Barber, Terrance (Mary) Dougherty, and Kevin (Michelle) Dougherty; 29 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren; one sister, Gail (Doug) Barton; and two brothers, James (Winanne) Kotula and Steven (Heather) Kotula; as well as his dear and lifelong friends, Dave

and Doug Fesseden; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Ronald E. Dougherty 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; he will be deeply missed and truly merits the grateful tribute of this Legislative Body; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Ronald E. Dougherty, and to express its deepest condolences to his family; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Ronald E. Dougherty.