

Senate Resolution No. 1952

BY: Senator STEC

MOURNING the death of The Honorable Kenneth J. McLaughlin, retired police officer, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community

WHEREAS, It is with feelings of deepest regret that this Legislative Body records the passing of The Honorable Kenneth J. McLaughlin of Saranac Lake, New York, a preeminent citizen whose distinguished public service and caring commitment will long serve as a standard to which others might aspire; and

WHEREAS, Judge Kenneth J. McLaughlin died on Thursday, February 10, 2022, at the age of 73; and

WHEREAS, Judge Kenneth J. McLaughlin truly lived his life with great dignity and genuine grace, always demonstrating a deep and continuing concern for the welfare of others in the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth "KJ" J. McLaughlin was born on May 17, 1948, to Henry and Dorothy (McCasland) McLaughlin in Saranac Lake, where he graduated from Pius X Central High School in 1966; later, in 1985, he furthered his education by earning his Associate of Applied Science degree in criminal justice from North Country Community College; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth J. McLaughlin proudly served his country as an infantryman and vehicle mechanic with the United States Army along the Czechoslovakia border; and

WHEREAS, From 1970-1974, Kenneth J. McLaughlin served as a Patrolman Sergeant for the Saranac Lake Police Department, and part-time from 1976-1995; upon the end of his full-time employment with the Department, he began a new career with New York State Department of Correctional Services; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his tenure, Kenneth J. McLaughlin quickly rose through the ranks, holding many leadership positions; after more than three decades of service, he retired with the rank of First Deputy Superintendent, Director of Special Operations, for the New York State Corrections and Community Services; and

WHEREAS, For over 50 years, Kenneth J. McLaughlin had been an active member of the Saranac Lake Volunteer Fire Department, holding the titles of 1st and 2nd Lieutenant Rescue Squad, Captain of Rescue Squad; and Captain in Charge of Underwater Dive Rescue for over 35 years; he also served as Franklin County Deputy Fire Coordinator Car-2, and at the time of his unexpected death, he was the Dive Safety Officer; and

WHEREAS, Dedicated to his role in fire protection, Kenneth J. McLaughlin saved an elderly man from a burning apartment in 1979, and in 1992, helped rescue a woman and her baby from a car which had overturned in a pond; in 2015, at the age of 67, he responded to more calls than

any of the Department's 40 members at the time; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth J. McLaughlin was also a vital part of many first responder organizations including International Association of Arson Investigators, International Association of Narcotics Officers, National Association of Investigative Specialists, Nine Lives Association for Personal Protection Specialist, and the International Dive Rescue Association; and

WHEREAS, Dedicated to his fellow veterans, Kenneth J. McLaughlin was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion Post 447, and enjoyed the great outdoors through the Saranac Lake Fish and Game Club; and

WHEREAS, In 2010, Ken was elected as Village Judge, and at the time of his death, had served two years of his four-year term as Harrietstown Judge; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his parents, and his companion Sandra Tanner, Judge Kenneth J. McLaughlin is survived by his wife Kathleen Peer; two sons, Kirk (Janean Blevins) McLaughlin and Derek (Nancy) McLaughlin; four grandchildren, Ronald, Derek, Marion and Kane; one brother, David (Kathy) McLaughlin; one sister, Evelyn (Bill) Wagner; three stepdaughters, Wendy (Tom) Dupree, Cassandra Tanner, and Tanya Kennedy; one stepson, Charles (Shelia) Strack; and one step-grandson, Brandon Dupree; as well as his dog Lady, numerous friends, colleagues and neighbors who will long cherish his memory; and

WHEREAS, Judge Kenneth J. McLaughlin's life was a portrait of service, a legacy which will long endure the passing of time, and will remain as a comforting memory to all he served and befriended; and

WHEREAS, Judge Kenneth J. McLaughlin's name is synonymous with character, dignity, intellect, depth and humor, qualities evident to his family and to all those who were fortunate enough to have known him; 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 The Honorable Kenneth J. McLaughlin, retired police officer, distinguished citizen and devoted 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 Kenneth J. McLaughlin.