

Senate Resolution No. 1970

BY: Senator HINCHEY

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of
Sherret Spaulding Chase, renowned conservationist,
professor, scientist, and family man

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, Sherret S. Chase of Ashokan, New York, died on Monday, June 7, 2021, at the age of 102; and

WHEREAS, Sherret S. Chase distinguished himself in his profession and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the prospering of his community and its residents as well as communities around the globe through his dedicated scientific research and forestry conservation efforts; and

WHEREAS, After beginning his undergraduate career at the University of Arizona studying biology, Sherret S. Chase transferred to Yale University where he earned his degree and started to discover his passion for botany; and

WHEREAS, Sherret S. Chase later completed his graduate degree in plant cytology and genetics with a minor in philosophy at Cornell University; he completed three years of service to his country in the United States Army Air Corps, before returning to Cornell University where he received his PhD in 1946; and

WHEREAS, A true trailblazer of scientific research, Sherret S. Chase earned the nickname "Father of the Double Haploid Method" due to his discoveries and understanding of this method of plant reproduction and genetics; and

WHEREAS, In this capacity, Sherret S. Chase's work largely focused on the production of inbred lines of maize to create more resistant and prolific varieties of the plant; with the method he is credited for developing, the timeline for the production of such important strains of maize are drastically reduced, aiding in creating disease resistant plants which resultantly helps increase food security for nations and communities in need; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his illustrious career, Sherret S. Chase worked in a variety of positions, including as an Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Professor at various colleges, as well as a Research Geneticist at DeKalb Agricultural Association and researcher through Harvard University Fellowships; and

WHEREAS, Sherret S. Chase was an early leader in the environmental movement, recognizing the intersection of conservation and a prosperous

local economy as well as the importance of preserving our natural resources for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, Regarded by his loved ones as his most significant local achievement, Sherret S. Chase was the founding President of the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development, the esteemed position he held for more than 50 years; and

WHEREAS, Under his able leadership, this vital organization was instrumental in defining and promoting a regional identity which emphasized protecting it's unique environment while fostering compatible economic growth; and

WHEREAS, The recipient of numerous awards and accolades, Sherret S. Chase received Iowa State University's first-ever Award for Sustained Excellence and the Honorary degree of Doctor of Science by Northern Illinois University for his work in developing the Double Haploid Method; and

WHEREAS, Sherret S. Chase's legacy is a tribute to hard work, the importance of education, family, and environmental consciousness; and

WHEREAS, Sherret S. Chase is predeceased by his beloved wife of 69 years, Catherine Ross Compton Chase; his daughter-in-law, Susan Ruth Page Chase; and his son-in-law, Jeffrey Blair Peters; he is survived by five children, Catherine Harrington Chase Peters, Helen Kelsey Chase, Sherret Edwards Chase, Wilson Compton Chase, and Alice Ross Chase Robeson; as well as eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren; one past son-in-law and two past daughters-in-law, John R. Long, Lindsay Chase-Lansdale, and Kathleen Edwards Chase, are also fondly acknowledged; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Sherret S. Chase 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; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Sherret S. Chase, and to express its deepest condolences to his family and friends; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Sherret S. Chase.