

BY: Senator GRIFFO

CONGRATULATING Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Dever upon the occasion of celebrating their 79th Wedding Anniversary

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body takes great pleasure in paying tribute to those flourishing marriages that have stood the test of time to serve as a paradigm for present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Dever upon the occasion of their 79th Wedding Anniversary, to be celebrated on Sunday, August 28, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Robert John Dever was born on October 30, 1921, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Dorothy Fredricka Kirch, was born on December 6, 1921, in Brooklyn, New York; the couple met while attending New Paltz College, in 1940; both would go on to complete their education degrees; and

WHEREAS, In 2021, Robert and Dorothy and their loving family celebrated their 100th birthdays; and

WHEREAS, While Robert J. Dever was attending Marine Corps training program in Quantico, Virginia, he was granted a 24-hour military leave, on August 28, 1943, to marry his beloved Dorothy, in East Rockaway, New York; and

WHEREAS, Robert J. Dever then proudly served his country during World War II, where he fought valiantly until achieving final victory and peace in Okinawa, Japan; and

WHEREAS, After the war, Dorothy F. and Robert J. Dever settled in East Rockaway; for several years Robert rode his bike to school teaching 6th graders, and spent many evenings taking the train to Columbia University where he would eventually obtain his master's degree; and

WHEREAS, Robert J. Dever was promoted to Principal of Wheeler Avenue Elementary School in Valley Stream, New York, the illustrious job from which he would retire after serving 26 meaningful years; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy F. Dever was a homemaker who devoted herself to making a loving home for her family; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy F. Dever is known for her superb home management skills, beautiful sewing, knitting and crocheting projects, and in his much-deserved retirement, Robert J. Dever has enjoyed woodworking and repairing clocks; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Dever are the proud parents of four sons, James (Suzanne), John (Christine), Thomas (Wendy), Daniel (Linda); and one daughter, Kathleen (David); and the loving grandparents of 13

grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Dever have lived and continue to live their lives with great dignity and genuine grace, always demonstrating a deep and continuing concern for human values and ideals, and in doing so, have inspired others to do the same; and

WHEREAS, These same values they have passed to their loved ones, producing a family that is close-knit and supportive of its individual members, public-minded in its relations to the community and committed to the ideals of citizenship upon which this Nation was founded; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Dever have touched the lives of their family and many friends through the shining example of their marriage, which is a testament to the devotion and admiration which they possess for one another; and

WHEREAS, The longevity of this enduring marriage truly marks a milestone in life's journey, an event of personal triumph and joy; and

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body that when an occasion of such importance is brought to our attention, the same should be memorialized by us for the edification and emulation of others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Dever upon the occasion of celebrating their 79th Wedding Anniversary; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Dever.