

BY: Senator REICHLIN-MELNICK

HONORING Jim Skelley upon the occasion of his retirement as owner of Nyack Bicycle Outfitters after 48 years of distinguished service

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize the achievements of those individuals and businesses which substantially contribute to the economic vitality of their communities and the entire Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Jim Skelley upon the occasion of his retirement as owner of Nyack Bicycle Outfitters after 48 years of distinguished service; and

WHEREAS, Jim Skelley opened Nyack Bicycle Outfitters in downtown Nyack, New York, in 1972, making this extraordinary establishment the second-oldest small business in Nyack when he finally closed its doors in January of 2021; and

WHEREAS, Cycling has always been a part of Jim Skelley's life; growing up in New York City, he rode a bicycle everywhere; it is almost unthinkable today to imagine a 13-year old riding a coaster bike up Route 9 to Tarrytown, over to White Plains and then back to the City, but this young man did just that; and

WHEREAS, Jim Skelley proudly served his country in the Vietnam War from 1968 to 1969; he would later overcome a serious illness caused by the effects of Agent Orange; his competitive spirit, determination and strength helped this brave man pull through; and

WHEREAS, Like many veterans, Jim Skelley returned to Vietnam four decades after the war with two friends for a six-week visit, during which time they rode from Hanoi to Saigon; during his visit, the Vietnamese people were very welcoming to him, and local children flocked around his bike; before his departure, he donated his bicycle to a home for street-dwelling kids in Saigon; and

WHEREAS, With a steadfast and unwavering commitment to his community, Jim Skelley organized the Rocket Ride, a 50-mile, weekly, fast-paced bike ride beginning in Nyack, and looping through Rockland and Bergen Counties; this ride became the longest running weekly bike ride in Rockland County; and

WHEREAS, Small businesses like Nyack Bicycle Outfitters are the backbone of local economies across New York State, and a state is only as great as those organizations and individuals that perform exemplary service on behalf of their community; and

WHEREAS, Over its distinguished 48-year history, Nyack Bicycle Outfitters has demonstrated continuous service to the residents and

communities which it served; and

WHEREAS, The success of Nyack Bicycle Outfitters is in direct correlation to the efforts of its owner, Jim Skelley, and all its dedicated staff, whose involvement is, and always has been, characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all endeavors on behalf of the business and the community it serves; and

WHEREAS, Small Businesses such as Nyack Bicycle Outfitters exert a strong, positive influence on the communities they serve and are a crucial element in the economy of New York State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Jim Skelley upon the occasion of his retirement as owner of Nyack Bicycle Outfitters after 48 years of dedicated service; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Jim Skelley.