

BY: Senator PALUMBO

MOURNING the death of Zbigniew Wilinski,
distinguished citizen and devoted member of his
community

WHEREAS, There are certain outstanding members of our community who, through their selfless commitment and dedication, have served to better the quality of life in our community and have had a measurable positive impact on the lives of its residents; Zbigniew Wilinski was one such individual; and

WHEREAS, It is with profound sorrow and deep regret that this Legislative Body records the passing of Zbigniew Wilinski, noting the significance of his purposeful life and accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Zbigniew "Ziggy" Wilinski, of Riverhead, New York, died on Tuesday, March 9, 2021, at the age of 74; and

WHEREAS, Born in Germany on June 21, 1946, Zbigniew Wilinski was the son of Stanislaw and Aurelia (Sottysiak) Wilinski; and

WHEREAS, The eldest of three siblings, Zbigniew Wilinski and his family immigrated to the United States, via Ellis Island, when he was a child; growing up, he was very into sports and learned pride for his Polish heritage through his parents; and

WHEREAS, A member of Riverhead High School Class of 1964, Zbigniew Wilinski went on to graduate from Suffolk County Community College; he worked for the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) before proudly serving his country as a member of the United States Army from 1968 to 1971; and

WHEREAS, Upon the completion of his valiant military service, Zbigniew Wilinski returned to the USPS, eventually becoming Riverhead Postmaster and a Regional Manager; and

WHEREAS, Zbigniew Wilinski and the former Wanda Bondarowicz were united in marriage on July 15, 1972, at St. Isidore's Church in Riverhead; and

WHEREAS, With a steadfast and unwavering commitment to both his community and his heritage, Zbigniew Wilinski was a longtime commander of the Riverhead Polish Hall and a driving force behind organizing the popular Polish Festival, which draws thousands of people every August; and

WHEREAS, A true icon in Riverhead's Polish community, Zbigniew Wilinski served as president and manager of Riverhead Polish Hall, and as a member of the Riverhead Polish Independent Club; he was a congregant at St. Isidore's Church in Riverhead, and a past member of the St. Isidore School Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, in recognition of his tireless devotion to his community, the Riverhead Town Board will ceremoniously rename the portion of Marcy Avenue around the Polish Hall, "Ziggy's Way," in his honor; and

WHEREAS, Zbigniew Wilinski was an avid Mets fan who loved music and polka dancing; while he was passionate about many things, above all his greatest passion was spending time with his beloved grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, An eminent man of indomitable faith and dedication, Zbigniew Wilinski will be remembered as a sincere and kind man with a big smile who loved his family and his community, and whose public service will forever stand as a paradigm and inspiration for others; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his wife, Zbigniew Wilinski he is survived by his two children, Michelle and Mark (Sharon); his siblings, Barbara Kolpak and Roman (Cathy); and two grandchildren, Adam and Austin; and

WHEREAS, Zbigniew Wilinski's infinite selflessness and benevolence will shine on through his family's vivid and happy memories; his insight and strength will forever serve as a beacon of love, light and hope to the countless lives he touched; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Zbigniew Wilinski leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all who were privileged to have known and loved such an amazing man; 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 Zbigniew Wilinski, 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 Zbigniew Wilinski.