

BY: M. of A. Norris

MOURNING the death of Peter Kent Wendel, renowned civic leader, former president of Wendel Engineers 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; Peter Kent Wendel was one such individual; and

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

WHEREAS, Peter "Pete" Wendel, a beloved member of the Niagara County community and a longtime booster of Western New York, died on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, at the age of 88; and

WHEREAS, Born in Lockport, New York, on May 24, 1932, Peter Wendel is the son of Leon H. Wendel and Ethel (Bundy) Wendel; he graduated from Lockport High School in 1950, and went on to the University of Michigan, where he earned a degree in civil engineering in 1954; and

WHEREAS, Peter Wendel and the former Jane Harry, whom he met while in Ann Arbor, Michigan, were united in marriage on April 2, 1955; and

WHEREAS, After three years as an engineering officer in the United States Navy, Peter Wendel returned to Lockport and joined Wendel Engineers, his father's engineering firm which serves government, private and industrial clients throughout Western New York; and

WHEREAS, As President from the mid-1970s until 1990, Peter Wendel transformed the company from a land surveying and municipal engineering group that employed 12, to a nationally recognized firm with 15 offices and more than 400 employees; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, his philosophical approach to management and his personal style greatly contributed to the success the firm enjoys today; and

WHEREAS, After stepping down from Wendel Engineers, Peter Wendel became a business consultant and life transition coach for an array of businesses in Western New York; and

WHEREAS, With a steadfast and unwavering commitment to his community, Peter Wendel was an instrumental member of many regional organizations, including the Rotary Club of Lockport, UB Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership, Leadership Niagara, Niagara County Community College Scholarship Foundation, Red Cross of Eastern Niagara County, Eastern Niagara United Way, Lockport Chamber of Commerce, Kenan Center,

and the Kenan Youth Hockey Association; and

WHEREAS, Peter Wendel has been the proud recipient of such honors as Citizen of the Year by the Lockport-Eastern Niagara Area Chamber of Commerce and the Lockport Jaycees' Distinguished Service Award; and

WHEREAS, In his free time, Peter Wendel could be found on Lake Ontario, where he loved to sail; a former Commodore at Olcott Yacht Club, he was also a board member of the Lake Yacht Racing Association (LYRA); and

WHEREAS, Whether it was in business, management or sailing, Peter Wendel truly believed in keeping an eye on the horizon; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his wife of 65 years, Peter Wendel is survived by his sister, Lynn Copp; his children, Tim Wendel (Jacqueline Salmon), Susan (Richard) Och, Chris Wendel (Janie McNabb), Bryan Wendel (Wendy Scinta) and Amy (Jeff) Foster; as well as 11 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; he is predeceased by his son Eric, who died in 1973; and

WHEREAS, Peter Wendel'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, Peter Wendel 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 Peter Kent Wendel, and to express its deepest condolences to his family; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Peter Kent Wendel.