

BY: M. of A. Stern

CELEBRATING the life and legacy of Clark Gillies,
New York Islanders legend and Hockey Hall of Famer

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge outstanding individuals who distinguish themselves through their exceptional performance, attaining unprecedented success and the highest level of personal achievement; and

WHEREAS, It is with great sorrow that this Legislative Body recognizes the passing of Clark Gillies, noting the significance of his purposeful life and accomplishments both on and off the ice; and

WHEREAS, Clark Gillies of Huntington, New York, passed away on Friday, January 21, 2022, at the age of 67 from cancer; and

WHEREAS, Before the first puck was dropped at the New York Islanders game against the Toronto Maple Leafs at the UBS Arena on Saturday, January 22, 2022, a moment of silence was held to pay tribute to No. 9; and

WHEREAS, A native of Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Canada, Clark Gillies played three years of minor league baseball in the Astros' system prior to being selected by the New York Islanders in the first round (4th overall) of the 1974 NHL Entry Draft; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his incredible career with the Islanders from 1974-1986, Clark Gillies played in 872 games (fifth all-time in franchise history), scoring 304 goals (fourth all-time in franchise history) and 359 assists (fifth all-time in franchise history) for 663 points (fourth all-time in franchise history); he defined the position "power forward"; and

WHEREAS, Clark Gillies also played in 159 playoff games for the Islanders, scoring 47 goals and 46 assists for 93 points; he was one of 17 Islanders players that won four straight Stanley Cup Championships from 1980-1983, and was a member of the group which set the NHL record of 19 straight playoff series wins; and

WHEREAS, In 1978, Clark Gillies represented the Islanders at the 1978 NHL All-Star Game and was named to the NHL First All-Star Team in both 1978 and 1979; and

WHEREAS, From 1986-1988, Clark Gillies played for the Buffalo Sabres before retiring after a superlative career spanning 14 years; and

WHEREAS, In honor of his many accomplishments and contributions to the sport of hockey and his beloved Islanders, Clark Gillies was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame; his number 9 was retired by the Islanders on December 7, 1996, and his banner now hangs in the rafters of UBS Arena; and

WHEREAS, Clark Gillies was a gentle giant; on the ice, he was a tremendous presence who protected his teammates; off the ice, he was also a star in his Long Island community; he established The Clark Gillies Foundation, a non-profit corporation developed to support children who are physically, developmentally and/or financially challenged; he and his staff always worked to improve the quality of life for these vulnerable young people, with 100% of the proceeds going directly to those in need; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of his many benevolent deeds, The Huntington Hospital Pediatric Unit was named after Clark Gillies and his Foundation, which raised one million dollars to help fund the construction of the unit; The Clark Gillies Foundation also created Brianna's Cub room within the Clark Gillies Pediatric Unit and The Clark Gillies Pediatric Emergency Room which is staffed and equipped specifically for children; and

WHEREAS, Clark Gillies was also a long-time Board member and Honoree of the Townwide Fund of Huntington and raised funds for countless charities across Long Island; and

WHEREAS, Clark Gillies will be missed by people all across "Islander Nation" and the State of New York for not only his athletic prowess and dedication to his community, but also for his passion and zeal for life, kind heart, engaging humor, warm smile, and his uncanny ability to regale his audiences with his captivating storytelling; and

WHEREAS, Clark Gillies was ever present at Islanders games and was a mentor to many young players on the team; and

WHEREAS, A gifted athlete, Clark Gillies was a renowned role model in the sport of professional hockey; his character and achievements stand as a sterling example and inspiration to all who aspire to success; and

WHEREAS, Clark Gillies is survived by his beloved wife Pam, who is also a native of Moose Jaw, and his three daughters; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Clark Gillies leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all he befriended; he will be deeply missed; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Clark Gillies, and to offer its sincerest condolences to his family; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Clark Gillies and the New York Islanders.