

Assembly Resolution No. 782

BY: M. of A. Palmesano

MOURNING the death of Leigh Williams,
distinguished citizen, devoted family man and
dedicated 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; Leigh Williams was one such individual; and

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

WHEREAS, Leigh Williams of Middlesex, New York, died peacefully at his home in Vine Valley on January 11, 2022, just a few weeks before his 78th birthday; and

WHEREAS, Leigh Williams grew up with his brothers Jay and Ross in Potter, New York, and graduated from Middlesex Valley High School in 1962, before earning a degree in Business from Morrisville College where he met his future wife, Bonnie; and

WHEREAS, The couple purchased an abandoned farm on Reed Corners Road where they welcomed their son, Cory, and spent 33 wonderful years together; and

WHEREAS, A United States Army Veteran, Leigh Williams worked for Rochester Gas and Electric in Canandaigua, New York, retiring as District Manager alongside a team of friends in 1994, after three decades of distinguished service; and

WHEREAS, Shortly after retirement, Leigh Williams built a permanent home adjacent to the cottage his grandparents built in 1931, overlooking Canandaigua Lake; meeting up with friends most mornings for breakfast was an important part of his daily routine, while always making people feel welcome to stop by "the cottage" for a swim or an evening barbecue to watch the sunset; and

WHEREAS, A passionate outdoorsman, Leigh Williams spent a lifetime enjoying the fishing and hunting opportunities of his beloved community; he volunteered endless hours throughout his life to organizations such as Kiwanis, The Middlesex Conservation Club, SCOPE, and The Middlesex Heritage Group; and

WHEREAS, Leigh Williams was proud to be a Hunters Safety Instructor for New York State and was instrumental in starting the New York State High School Clay Target League in Yates County High Schools; he was also personally responsible for the State boat launch and upgrades in Vine Valley; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, many children caught their first fish or experienced their first day out hunting thanks to the countless time this extraordinary man gave to mentoring local youth through DEC programs; and

WHEREAS, Leigh Williams' ongoing commitment to outdoor pursuits and education led to his induction into the New York State Outdoor Hall of Fame in 2020, which was an unexpected but tremendous honor; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Leigh Williams will be honored posthumously as Citizen of the Year on Sunday, August 7, 2022, by Middlesex, New York, for his years of service to the community; and

WHEREAS, A man of integrity and charm who always wore a kind smile, Leigh Williams was a hard worker who gave tirelessly and willingly of his time and energies to his community, friends and family; and

WHEREAS, Leigh Williams is survived by his son, Cory; and brother, Ross; as well as countless relatives and friends scattered around the country; and

WHEREAS, Leigh Williams' 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, Leigh Williams 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 Leigh Williams, 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 Leigh Williams.