

Assembly Resolution No. 904

BY: M. of A. Bronson

MOURNING the death of Tim O Mains, distinguished educator, LGBTQ+ advocate, and first openly-gay elected official in New York State

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; Tim O Mains was one such individual; and

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

WHEREAS, Tim O Mains, of Rochester, New York, died on December 30, 2021, at the age of 73; and

WHEREAS, Tim O Mains worked as a teacher, counselor and staff developer in the Greece Central School District from 1971 to 2002, before becoming a principal in the Rochester City School District (RCSD); he rose to the position of Director of Internal School Operations for the RCSD in 2012; and

WHEREAS, Tim O Mains distinguished himself in his profession and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community through his positions in education and public office; and

WHEREAS, A true trailblazer and icon in the LGBTQ+ community, Tim O Mains made history when he was elected to the Rochester City Council in 1985, as the first openly-gay elected official in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, In this capacity, he broke significant barriers for the LGBTQ+ community with his genuine visibility which broadened acceptance for others; he was a renowned and vocal advocate for gay rights long before his initial forays into politics and was incredibly passionate about helping those impacted by AIDS and HIV; and

WHEREAS, Tim O Mains stood up for those who were voiceless, shunned, and marginalized; his political agenda largely aimed to make Rochester a better place by offering improved housing, fair law enforcement, and economic development for good jobs; and

WHEREAS, With a steadfast and unwavering devotion to his community, Tim O Mains possessed a passion for service and an eye for detail, working tirelessly to enrich the lives of his students and the residents of Rochester; and

WHEREAS, After graduating from Ben Davis High School in Indiana, Tim O Mains received a bachelor's degree in Sociology and World History; he

went on to earn a Master's degree in Counselor Education, a Master of Science in Educational Administration, Master's in Education degree in Organizational Leadership and was working on his Doctorate Educational Policy and Leadership; and

WHEREAS, Tim O Mains is survived by his spouse, David Phillip Gardner; his brother, Steve Mains (Cindy Savage); a sister, Roxie McNelly (Jim); nephews, Brooks (Jordan) Canavesi, Phillip (Jennifer) McNelly and Derrick (Sara) McNelly; nieces, Ursula Mains, Sonya Savage and Lacey York (Brendan); great-nephews, Caden and Cruz Canavesi and Colin York; and great-nieces, Lyla Canavesi, Elizabeth York, and Autumn and Lily McNelly; and

WHEREAS, A kind man of true courage and bravery, Tim O Mains' 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, Tim O Mains 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 Tim O Mains, and to express its sincere condolences to his family; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the spouse of Tim O Mains.