

Senate Resolution No. 2095

**BY:** Senator HARCKHAM

**MOURNING** the death of George L. Johansen, devoted husband and father, meritorious veteran, and distinguished New York State Trooper

**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; George L. Johansen was one such individual; and

**WHEREAS,** It is with profound sorrow and deep regret that this Legislative Body records the passing of George L. Johansen, noting the significance of his purposeful life and accomplishments; and

**WHEREAS,** George L. Johansen, a long-time resident of Peekskill, New York, died on Saturday, August 5, 2023, following a lengthy illness that he refused to let define him, and bravely fought for over 12 years; and

**WHEREAS,** George Lawrence Johansen was born to Lawrence and Louise (Dalton) Johansen in Staten Island, New York, where he attended Tottenville High School; he proudly served his country as a member of the United States Army and was a combat veteran, having fought in Vietnam during the early part of the conflict in 1965 and 1966; and

**WHEREAS,** Upon his return from the war, George L. Johansen joined the New York State Police in 1967 where he worked until his retirement in 1991; and

**WHEREAS,** Soon after becoming a New York State Trooper, George L. Johansen met the love of his life, the former Joan Edwards, and the couple married in 1969; they were married for 54 years and had two adoring children, Amy and Eric; together as a family, they enjoyed traveling, camping, skiing, SCUBA diving, and sailing; but most of all, George was happiest when they were simply all together around the dining room table; and

**WHEREAS,** During his distinguished New York State Police (NYSP) career in Troop K, George L. Johansen investigated and helped solve many high-profile crimes throughout the Hudson Valley region; as the Senior Investigator at NYSP Peekskill, he loved working with his squad and cherished the lifelong friendships that were forged during this time; and

**WHEREAS,** Following his retirement, George L. Johansen held many positions in Law Enforcement and Security; in 2001, he very proudly returned to policing, serving the New York and New Jersey Port Authority Police Department as the Deputy Superintendent until 2007; his illustrious law enforcement career concluded with a return to the New York State Police where he worked as an Investigator/Consultant until 2019; and

**WHEREAS,** George L. Johansen was well known and respected for his over 50 years of public service which also included serving the City of Peekskill as a Councilman and Deputy Mayor; and

**WHEREAS,** An accomplished private pilot certified to fly single and multi-engine planes, George L. Johansen loved to fly with his great friends and fellow aviators with whom he shared thousands of hours in the cockpits of many types of aircraft; his personal favorite was a seaplane which he loved to take off from and land in the Hudson River and surrounding creeks in Ulster County; and

**WHEREAS,** George L. Johansen was also a talented sailor who loved to skipper sailboats and powerboats all over the Caribbean Sea, or up and down the inter-coastal waterway with his friends and family; his favorite islands were St. Thomas, St. John, and Jost Van Dyke, and he loved to visit the Willie T; and

**WHEREAS,** If he wasn't soaking in the warm Caribbean sun in the wintertime, George L. Johansen could be found on the ski slopes; he skied all over the Northeast, the Rockies, Canada, and the Alps, and even got Joan to the top of many mountains; and

**WHEREAS,** Throughout their marriage, George and Joan traveled the globe together; they cruised the Mediterranean and river villages of France; biked through the vineyards of Napa Valley, and visited Taiwan, Scandinavia, and the British and Greek Isles; they were true world travelers and best friends; and

**WHEREAS,** Furthermore, George L. Johansen also found time to attend many Super Bowls, World Series Games, NASCAR races, and even sped around the Charlotte Speedway driving a Richard Petty Stock Car; he found great joy in sharing his favorite hobbies and thirst for adventure with his family and closest friends; and

**WHEREAS,** In addition to his wife and children, George L. Johansen is survived by his daughter-in-law, Catherine (Trerotola); three grandchildren, Eric, Leila, and Melissa; three sisters Carol (Danny) Meyler, Gail (Patrick) Lomma, and Dawn Johansen; as well as many adoring nieces, nephews, cousins, and close friends; he was predeceased by his sisters Marylou and Joyce; and

**WHEREAS,** George L. Johansen'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, George L. Johansen 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 George L. Johansen, and to express its deepest condolences to her family; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of George L. Johansen.