

Senate Resolution No. 2216

BY: Senator WALCZYK

MOURNING the death of Wayne L. Ashley, former Ogdensburg Mayor, longtime police officer, and distinguished 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; Wayne L. Ashley was one such individual; and

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

WHEREAS, Wayne L. Ashley of Ogdensburg, New York, died on Sunday, April 7, 2024, at the age of 74, surrounded by his loving family; and

WHEREAS, Born January 20, 1950 to Carl M. Ashley and Dorothy (Bell) Ashley in Ogdensburg, Wayne L. Ashley was best known as a 39-year veteran of the Ogdensburg City Police Department where he served 20 years as a patrolman and 19 years as a road patrol shift sergeant; and

WHEREAS, During his illustrious career in law enforcement, Wayne L. Ashley completed incident command training, US Coast Guard recreational watercraft enforcement training, fire investigation and police supervision training, crime scene investigation with the John Jay College of Criminal Justice program, and juvenile custody training; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, he served as a dog control officer for many years, and worked part-time for Hackett's Hardware from 1966 to 2002; and

WHEREAS, After his retirement, in November 2010, Wayne L. Ashley was elected to Ogdensburg's City Council where he served for one term before winning a term as Ogdensburg's 44th mayor, serving from 2016 to 2019; and

WHEREAS, In this esteemed capacity, Wayne L. Ashley was instrumental in the establishment of the Ogdensburg Land Bank as well as a fleet management program as recommended by the state's Financial Review Board; he also partnered with the St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency to save and rehabilitate the Newell Building, one of the city's major industrial buildings overlooking the waterfront; and

WHEREAS, Wayne L. Ashley played a key role in upgrading the city's sewer system to reduce pollution in the St. Lawrence River, rehabbing vacant properties to get them back on the tax rolls, and working alongside local politicians on countless initiatives to benefit the community; and

WHEREAS, This extraordinary man was also a small business owner, operating A and A Fencing, which specialized in residential fencing; and

WHEREAS, With a steadfast and unwavering commitment to his community, Wayne L. Ashley served as co-chair of the Heart-to-Heart program with the late Charles W. Kelly, which provided Christmas presents to children in need across St. Lawrence County; and

WHEREAS, A lifelong resident of Ogdensburg, Wayne L. Ashley graduated from Ogdensburg Free Academy in 1968, and proudly served his country as a member of the United States Army National Guard where he rose to the rank of Staff Sergeant; he went on to study business administration at Jefferson Community College and SUNY Canton; and

WHEREAS, An avid fisherman and hunter, Wayne L. Ashley enjoyed spending his leisure time on Black Lake; he also enjoyed deer and duck hunting, and was a Waterfowl USA member and the son of a decoy carver; and

WHEREAS, On January 22, 2010, Wayne L. Ashley married the love of his life, Karen, and they shared 15 wonderful years together; while he was passionate about many things, his greatest passion was spending time with his family and friends; he made it a priority to talk to his children and grandchildren every night; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his beloved wife, Wayne L. Ashley is survived by his daughter, Colleen (Christopher); son, Patrick; stepmother, Patricia; stepchildren, Greg, Stephen, and Melissa; and three grandchildren, Jacob, Jaedyn, and Abby; as well as a Special Uncle Richard "Uncle Dick" Dillenbeck; he was predeceased by his parents and his brother, Carl Ashley, Jr.; and lifelong friend, Charles W. Kelly; and

WHEREAS, Wayne L. Ashley'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, Wayne L. Ashley 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 Wayne L. Ashley, 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 Wayne L. Ashley.