

**BY:** Senator OBERACKER

**HONORING** Maurice Gerry upon the occasion of his designation as a 2024 Wall of Fame member by the Liberty Central School District

**WHEREAS,** It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor those distinguished citizens who would devote their life's work and purpose to community service, contributing to the welfare of the citizens of their communities and this great Empire State; and

**WHEREAS,** Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Maurice Gerry upon the occasion of his designation as a 2024 Wall of Fame member by the Liberty Central School District; and

**WHEREAS,** The Wall of Fame was established in 2011 by the Board of Education to honor extraordinary alumni; nominees are judged on exceptional accomplishments and significant contributions within their career, community, or personal life; and

**WHEREAS,** A member of the Class of 1949 of Liberty Central School, Maurice Gerry has strong roots in the community; he recently paid homage to his first teacher, Mrs. Manion, by dedicating a plaque to be displayed on the schoolhouse wall once restored; and

**WHEREAS,** After high school, Maurice Gerry enlisted in the United States Navy and later resettled in San Francisco, working with influential figures such as Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk; and

**WHEREAS,** Actively involved in Diane Feinstein's mayoral campaign, Maurice Gerry's efforts to raise awareness about the AIDS epidemic earned him the honor of representing Alaska in a Washington, D.C., parade for the cause; and

**WHEREAS,** Returning to Liberty, New York, Maurice Gerry immersed himself in local politics, the arts and preservation; the visionary behind the Ms. Sullivan County Beauty Pageant, he championed diversity and inclusion, ensuring financial barriers did not hinder participation; and

**WHEREAS,** Serving as town councilman for two decades, Maurice Gerry was affectionately known as the "Tree Hugger," and dedicated himself to maintaining Liberty's beauty and integrity; and

**WHEREAS,** At the age of 91, Maurice Gerry assumed the role of interim councilman, a testament to his enduring commitment; he actively supports humanitarian efforts locally and internationally, holding seats at O & M Museum, Liberty Arts Museum, Time and Again Museum, and the Shandeele Music Festival; and

WHEREAS, At 93, Maurice Gerry remains an inspiration, weaving the threads of community, history, and compassion together; and

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Maurice Gerry upon the occasion of his designation as a 2024 Wall of Fame member by the Liberty Central School District; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Maurice Gerry.