

BY: Senator WALCZYK

MOURNING the death of Harold B. Johnson II,
devoted family man, distinguished citizen 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; Harold B. Johnson II was one such individual; and

WHEREAS, It is with profound sorrow and deep regret that this Legislative Body records the passing of Harold B. Johnson II, noting the significance of his purposeful life and accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Harold B. Johnson II, vice chairman of Northern New York Newspaper Corporation and publisher of the **Watertown Daily Times**, died on Monday, July 29, 2024, at the age 70; and

WHEREAS, A native of Watertown, New York, Harold B. Johnson II was born at The House of the Good Samaritan on February 9, 1954, as the youngest of four children; he graduated from Phillips Exeter Academy in 1973 and Vanderbilt University in 1977 with a degree in history; and

WHEREAS, A renowned newspaper executive, Harold B. Johnson II began his illustrious career at WWNY-TV Channel 7 before working in various roles alongside his father and brother in their family-owned business; and

WHEREAS, In 1982, Harold B. Johnson II became manager of regional advertising for the **Watertown Daily Times**; after his father's death, he and his brother were named co-publishers of the Times, with Harold as company President and COO; he retired in 2022; and

WHEREAS, With a steadfast and unwavering commitment to his community, Harold B. Johnson II served on the boards of the Jefferson County Historical Society, the Edward John Noble Foundation, the St. Catherine's Island Foundation, the Jefferson Community College Foundation, the SUNY Potsdam College Council, Neighbors of Watertown, Johnson Newspaper Corporation, The 1000 Island State Park Commission, Northern New York Community Foundation, and Rotary, among others; and

WHEREAS, Harold B. Johnson II joined the Neighbors of Watertown Board in 1988, serving humbly and devotedly for the betterment and preservation of downtown Watertown; an avid outdoorsman, he was also a strong advocate for the state park system; and

WHEREAS, As a member of the Hickory Point Club on Carleton Island, Harold B. Johnson II spent many weekends duck hunting with his friends and son during the late fall months, enjoying the adventure of getting to and from the island in his 1968 Boston Whaler; and

WHEREAS, Harold B. Johnson II is survived by his loving wife of 41 years, Susan A. Meylor Johnson; three children, Alec E. Johnson (Gabrielle), Anna A. Napoli (William), and Leslie M. Carman (Alexander); three grandchildren, Claire, Tadhg and Henley, as well as a fourth on the way; a brother, John B. Johnson Jr. (Susan); two sisters, Ann Johnson and Deborah Johnson Newcomb (Richard); friend and brother-in-law, Ted Meylor (Maureen); and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and beloved friends; and

WHEREAS, Harold B. Johnson'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, Harold B. Johnson II 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 Harold B. Johnson II, 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 Harold N. Johnson.