

BY: Senator PALUMBO

MOURNING the death of Robert J. Long Jr., devoted educator, distinguished citizen and beloved 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; Robert J. Long Jr. was one such individual; and

WHEREAS, It is with profound sorrow and deep regret that this Legislative Body records the passing of Robert J. Long Jr., noting the significance of his purposeful life and accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Robert J. Long Jr., East Quogue Superintendent and Principal renowned for his kindness, generosity, and for making school feel like home, died on August 9, 2022, at the age of 53; and

WHEREAS, A resident of Hampton Bays, New York, Robert J. Long Jr. began his illustrious career as an administrator when he became Principal of East Quogue School in 2000; he never left the small district, ultimately taking over the Superintendent's role in 2015; and

WHEREAS, Universally adored by staff, students and parents, Robert J. Long Jr. treated the school and the larger East Quogue community with the same care and love he showed his own family; and

WHEREAS, A truly selfless man of indomitable faith and dedication, Robert J. Long Jr. continued to show up to work for the students and staff while battling cancer and steering the district through the uncharted waters of a global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, In addition to treating his students, staff and parents with an uncommon level of care, empathy and dedication, Robert J. Long Jr. will be remembered for the vast improvements he made to both the facilities and educational programs offered at East Quogue School District; and

WHEREAS, Under the able leadership of Robert J. Long Jr., the East Quogue School District brought back teachers who had been previously let go, built an expansive vegetable garden and began offering the Earth Rangers after-school club, underwent the construction of a sixth-grade wing, as well as a greenhouse, fully renovated playground, and added several outdoor classroom spaces; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, this devoted educator worked closely with the Board of Education to secure state aid for free full-day pre-kindergarten for East Quogue families; an expansive outdoor amphitheater for concerts and assemblies was also completed in the final days of this past school year; and

WHEREAS, Robert J. Long Jr.'s ability to form close, familial bonds with students of all ages was a natural extension of the same love, energy and enthusiasm he had as a husband and father; and

WHEREAS, While he was passionate about many things, above all his greatest passion was spending time with his beloved wife, Dawn, and their two beautiful daughters, Meghan and Shannon; and

WHEREAS, For as much effort as he invested in both his own family and his school family, Robert J. Long Jr. also found time for personally enriching projects; he was an avid runner, completing several half-marathons, and was a talented and ambitious writer, participating in the annual Summer Writing Conference at Stony Brook Southampton College several times; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Robert J. Long Jr. displayed throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, Robert J. Long Jr. continually demonstrated an impressive dedication, an unparalleled devotion and an unrelenting enthusiasm for the quality of the educational programs and opportunities offered at East Quogue Schools for the benefit of its faculty and students, as well as for the entire community; he truly left a legacy to the residents of East Quogue, New York, and to future generations of its students; and

WHEREAS, Robert J. Long Jr.'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; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Robert J. Long Jr., 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 family of Robert J. Long Jr.