

Senate Resolution No. 541

**BY:** Senator BRESLIN

**MOURNING** the death of James E. Long, former Commissioner of the New York State Legislative Bill Drafting Commission, renowned attorney, and devoted public servant

**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; James E. Long was one such individual; and

**WHEREAS,** It is with profound sorrow and deep regret that this Legislative Body records the passing of James E. Long, noting the significance of the loss of a man whose altruistic spirit will be greatly missed; and

**WHEREAS,** James E. Long of Albany, New York, died on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at the age of 71; and

**WHEREAS,** Born on November 15, 1951, James Edward Long was the son of the late Edward J. Long and Antonia Bruno Long; and

**WHEREAS,** James E. Long received his Bachelor's degree from the State University of New York at Albany in 1974; he went on to earn his law degree from the University of New Hampshire Franklin Pierce School of Law in 1978, and was admitted to the New York State Bar in 1979; and

**WHEREAS,** James "Jim" Long began his illustrious career with the New York State Legislative Bill Drafting Commission after his appointment by the leader of the Senate as a Commissioner on January 11, 2010, serving until January 11, 2011; he was reappointed Commissioner of the Legislative Bill Drafting Commission by Senate Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, on January 2, 2019, where he remained until his official retirement on January 5, 2023; and

**WHEREAS,** In addition to his work with the New York State Legislative Bill Drafting Commission, James E. Long served as the Albany County Public Defender and as a former Special Counsel to the New York State Senate Democratic Conference; he also served as Law Clerk for late New York State Supreme Court Justices The Honorable Paul Cheeseman and The Honorable Daniel Prior, as well as Albany County Surrogate Raymond Marinelli; and

**WHEREAS,** Furthermore, James E. Long served as an attorney in private practice for more than 45 years, specializing in Criminal Defense, Election Law, Labor Law, and Trial Practice and for many years he represented the Construction and General Laborers Local 190 (LIUNA); and

**WHEREAS,** Having tried over 100 cases to verdict in state and federal court, James E. Long developed an impeccable reputation for his balanced

temperament, noble dedication, and superior litigation skills; and

**WHEREAS,** Widely respected and greatly admired for his unremitting commitment to the field of law, James E. Long was cited on a number of occasions for his prolific contributions, including his selection to Super Lawyers (2011 - 2013), a peer designation awarded only to a select number of accomplished attorneys in each state; and

**WHEREAS,** James E. Long was a tireless advocate for those in recovery for alcohol and substance use issues and he was especially passionate in assisting those in the legal profession navigating sobriety while balancing their careers; and

**WHEREAS,** James E. Long's spirit and zest for life was apparent by his embrace of culture through worldly travels, time spent reading historical novels, mentoring countless loved ones, and fueled by his passion for convertibles; and

**WHEREAS,** Throughout James E. Long's many endeavors, his daughter Darcy, son-in-law Mike, and granddaughter Madeline, consistently remained the most fundamental, supportive, and cherished part of his life; and

**WHEREAS,** James E. Long served the Legislative Bill Drafting Commission and the New York State Senate with dependability, honor and integrity earning him the respect and affection of his staff and peers, while effectively fulfilling the duties of his position and contributing significantly to the legislative process of this great Empire State; and

**WHEREAS,** Every person in New York State has most certainly benefited, in one way or another, from the deep dedication, intelligence and commitment that James E. Long brought to his work as an attorney, commissioner, and public servant; a loyal friend and trusted advisor who had a profound effect on the many lives he touched, he will be deeply missed and truly merits the grateful tribute of this Legislative Body; and

**WHEREAS,** Armed with a humanistic spirit, and imbued with a sense of empathy, James E. Long's life was a portrait of service, 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; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of James E. Long, and 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 James E. Long.