

Assembly Resolution No. 778

BY: M. of A. Lemondes

HONORING former New York State Senator Lloyd Stephen Riford, Jr., upon the occasion of celebrating his 100th Birthday

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to commemorate and recognize certain milestones celebrated by citizens of 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 Senator Lloyd Stephen Riford, Jr., upon the occasion of his 100th Birthday to be celebrated on Thursday, February 29, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Born in Auburn, New York, on February 29, 1924, Lloyd Stephen "Steve" Riford, Jr., graduated from Phillips Exeter Academy and Princeton University; he proudly served his country in World War II as an ambulance driver in the Middle Eastern and European Theaters; and

WHEREAS, After returning from the War, Lloyd Stephen Riford, Jr., became heavily involved in the agricultural sector, particularly the dairy industry, serving as President of Auburn Guernsey Farms, a large dairy operation, and Greystone Farms, a Guernsey breeding farm; he was Director of Purchasing and Corporate Secretary of the Beacon Milling Company, milling, preparing, and supplying animal feed to farms all over Central New York; he also served as President of a feed ingredient business, Riford, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Always civic-minded, and desirous to serve his community, Lloyd Stephen Riford, Jr., filled many roles: the first chairman of the Cayuga County Planning Board; an organizer of the Central New York Regional Planning Board; a member of the Cayuga County Environmental Management Council, the Board of Auburn Memorial Hospital, and the Auburn YMCA; and a trustee of Westminster Presbyterian Church; and

WHEREAS, Because of his dedication and activities in a broad array of civic endeavors, Lloyd Stephen Riford, Jr., was sought as a candidate for the 125th Assembly District, which included Cayuga and Cortland Counties, in 1970 and won the election in a heated four-way race in a difficult year, defeating the incumbent; and

WHEREAS, During his Assembly tenure, Assemblyman Lloyd Stephen Riford, Jr., became an advocate for the needs of local governments and the agricultural sector; he was also a ranking member of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee; and

WHEREAS, Due to the presence of a state maximum correctional facility in his district, Assemblyman Lloyd Stephen Riford, Jr., gained significant knowledge and was considered an authority on matters pertaining to the State's correctional system; he was asked to chair an Assembly task force on New York State's correctional facilities,

particularly following the 1971 riot at the Attica Correctional Facility which spawned important reforms in the New York State's penal and correctional laws and the treatment of incarcerated individuals; and

WHEREAS, After being re-elected to the Assembly by wide margins five consecutive times, Assemblyman Lloyd Stephen Riford, Jr., ran for election in 1982, contending for the newly created 50th Senatorial District seat, which included the counties of his Assembly district with the addition of Chenango, Otsego, and Tompkins Counties, and won the race handily; and

WHEREAS, Acknowledged for his expertise in agriculture and broad knowledge of the dairy industry, Senator Lloyd Stephen Riford, Jr., was immediately named Chairman of a new Senate subcommittee on the dairy industry; charged with evaluating the problems of New York State's dairy community, he led the subcommittee to propose important remedial measures for the dairy industry, and his advocacy led the State Legislature to create the bipartisan Legislative Commission on Dairy Industry Development; and

WHEREAS, In 1985, Senator Lloyd Stephen Riford, Jr., was named Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee where he focused attention on the needs of the broader agricultural sector, including New York State's grape growing and wine industry; and

WHEREAS, Of particular note during his tenure, as Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on the State College of Veterinary Medicine, was his success in rescuing the State's veterinary school from losing its accreditation, a loss that would have devastated the health and safety of farm animals and severely damaged efforts to research and eradicate animal diseases like brucellosis and Johne's Disease; and

WHEREAS, On the Senate Higher Education Committee, and as a Senator at the time, representing the district with the most institutions of higher education, Senator Lloyd Stephen Riford, Jr., pressed for continued State support for SUNY and private schools in the face of proposed budget cuts; and

WHEREAS, Senator Lloyd Stephen Riford, Jr., was married to the late Susan Crawford; together, they had three children: Suzanne Riford Toman, L.S. "Sandy" Riford, III, and Tom Riford; in 1999, he was married to the late Joan Chayka; and

WHEREAS, After two productive and successful terms, Senator Lloyd Stephen Riford, Jr., retired from the New York State Senate in 1986; subsequent to returning to his farm and business at Half Acre outside Auburn for several years, he and his wife finally retired to Hawaii where he still resides; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to publicly recognize those who have reached such a remarkable age and who have witnessed and celebrated the innovations, cultural developments, and achievements of this country during the last century, while themselves contributing to the growth and excellence of this great Empire State;

now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor former New York State Senator Lloyd Stephen Riford, Jr., upon the occasion of celebrating his 100th Birthday, expressing the collective gratitude of the Members of this body for his service to the New York State Assembly and Senate and wishing him a joyous and blessed 100th Birthday celebration with family and friends; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Senator Lloyd Stephen Riford, Jr.