

Senate Resolution No. 1566

BY: Senator GRIFFO

CONGRATULATING Jaroslaw Lyktey 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, Senior citizens bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the increasingly active roles they play in today's society; their past contributions and future participation are a vital part of, and valuable asset to, the fabric of community life and activity; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Jaroslaw Lyktey upon the occasion of his 100th Birthday celebrated on Dec. 29, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Jaroslaw "Jerry" Lyktey was born on Dec. 29, 1925, in the Ukrainian village of Trostyanets; he grew up under shifting regimes, first Polish, then Soviet, and later German occupation during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Discovering a love for languages and education, Jaroslaw Lyktey, who was fluent in Ukrainian, Polish, Russian, German, and English, became a devoted educator; and

WHEREAS, After World War II, Jaroslaw Lyktey spent time in Germany at a displaced persons camp and worked with the U.S. Army; and

WHEREAS, In 1949, Jaroslaw Lyktey immigrated to America to join his uncle's grocery store in Utica, New York and soon pursued higher education; and

WHEREAS, Jaroslaw Lyktey taught English for more than 30 years in local schools, including New York Mills, Utica University, and Herkimer College; and

WHEREAS, With a vigorous passion for teaching, Jaroslaw Lyktey has educated and inspired generations of citizens in Central New York; and

WHEREAS, Jaroslaw Lyktey, with his zest for life, has inspired and enhanced the lives of his family and friends; and

WHEREAS, Jaroslaw Lyktey has enriched the lives of those around him through his joyous and sincere love for others and through the profound charm and wisdom which comes only from a fullness of years; and

WHEREAS, Fostering a deep connection with his Ukrainian heritage, Jaroslaw Lyktey helped establish a Ukrainian church in Utica, which became a hub for the community; the church was central not only for

celebrating religious and cultural traditions, but also for nurturing a sense of pride and togetherness among Ukrainians, many of whom had similar shared experiences; and

WHEREAS, Family remains at the center of Jaroslaw Lykthey's life; he and his wife, Jean, have four children and eight grandchildren, all educated and maintaining ties to Ukrainian culture; and

WHEREAS, Even at 100 years old, Jaroslaw Lykthey stays active by gardening, reading, following Ukrainian news, and sharing his wisdom with his family; and

WHEREAS, This exceptional centenarian has experienced the incredible joys and sorrows characteristic of and reserved for those with the stamina and courage to savor a full life; 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 congratulate Jaroslaw Lykthey upon the occasion of celebrating his 100th Birthday; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Jaroslaw Lykthey.