

Senate Resolution No. 1858

**BY:** Senator ORTT

**MOURNING** the death of William "Bill" Gosch,  
distinguished citizen, veteran, and devoted member  
of his community

**WHEREAS,** It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to citizens of the State of New York whose lifework and civic endeavor served to enhance the quality of life in their communities and this great Empire State; and

**WHEREAS,** William "Bill" Gosch of North Tonawanda, New York, died on Sunday, March 29, 2026, at the age of 102; and

**WHEREAS,** Born on December 8, 1923, William Gosch was a lifelong resident of North Tonawanda and graduated from North Tonawanda High School in 1942; and

**WHEREAS,** Filled with a strong desire to serve his Nation, William Gosch joined the United States Marine Corps in December of 1942; he served proudly in the Pacific Theatre as a PFC, and was a member of the 2nd Raider Battalion, known as the elite Carlson's Raiders; and

**WHEREAS,** While serving, William Gosch participated in four major combat operations, including Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Guam, and Okinawa; and

**WHEREAS,** On his 100th birthday, William Gosch received eight medals that he earned but was never physically given, including the Navy-Marine Presidential Unit Commendation Ribbon, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, Navy-Marine Combat Action Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with 4 Bronze Stars, WWII Victory Medal, WWII Honorable Discharge Button, and Marine Corps Rifle Marksman Badge; and

**WHEREAS,** After returning from the war, William Gosch attended Niagara University on a football scholarship, and he graduated in June of 1950; that same year, William Gosch married his loving wife, Lois Kothan, and together they shared 72 memorable years of marriage until her death in 2022; and

**WHEREAS,** Together, William Gosch and his wife, Lois Kothan, shared the joy of raising their four beloved children, Phyllis, Susan, Christine, and Matthew; and

**WHEREAS,** William Gosch distinguished himself in his profession and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community; and

**WHEREAS,** William Gosch spent his professional career working for Johns-Mansville, serving as general manager of Richardson Boat Company, and managing the North Tonawanda Housing Authority; and

**WHEREAS,** After retiring, William Gosch spent 26 years wintering in Oahu, Hawaii, where he and his wife operated a costume jewelry business; and

**WHEREAS,** William Gosch's commitment to excellence, and his spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

**WHEREAS,** As a proud community member who was always willing to help his community, William Gosch was appointed to serve as an Interim 2nd Ward Alderman for the North Tonawanda Common Council in 2020 at the age of 97; and

**WHEREAS,** William Gosch valued community, conversation, and the simple joys of everyday life; known as the "Original Mr. Fix-It" to many, William Gosch was a popular figure in North Tonawanda, often visiting the North Tonawanda City Market and participating in activities and celebrations throughout his cherished hometown; and

**WHEREAS,** Those who had the privilege of knowing William Gosch will remember his warm smiles, friendly conversations, memorable stories, and immense North Tonawanda pride; and

**WHEREAS,** Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, William Gosch leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all he served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of William "Bill" Gosch, distinguished citizen, veteran, and devoted member of his community; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of William "Bill" Gosch.