

**BY:** Senator AKSHAR

**MOURNING** the death of George F. Akel, Jr.,  
committed businessman, dedicated family man 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 the great  
State of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** It is with feelings of deepest regret that this Legislative  
Body mourns the passing of George F. Akel, Jr. of Binghamton, New York,  
who died on May 22, 2019, at the age of 84; and

**WHEREAS,** Born on January 29, 1935, in Binghamton, George F. Akel,  
Jr. was the son of George and Georgette Akel; and

**WHEREAS,** From a very young age, George F. Akel, Jr. was devoted to  
his family business, Binghamton Giant Markets, which was established in  
1933 by his father George and Uncle Metrie; and

**WHEREAS,** George F. Akel, Jr. graduated salutatorian from both  
Binghamton Central High School and the University of Pennsylvania's  
Wharton School of Business; after completing his studies, he returned  
home to work with his brothers, Ferris and Ronnie, to grow their  
family's grocery business and diversify into real estate; and

**WHEREAS,** Dedicated to his community, George F. Akel, Jr. had been an  
active member of many organizations throughout his adult life, always  
striving to improve the well-being of his beloved hometown; he served on  
the boards of many outstanding associations, including: SUNY-Broome  
Community College, McFarland Johnson, NYSERDA, Regional Advisory Board  
of Excellus Blue Cross Blue Shield, Regional Advisory Board of M&T Bank,  
Willow Run Foods, Tri-Cities Opera, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital  
Foundation, ACHIEVE Foundation and the Broome County IDA; he also  
wholeheartedly supported many local charities such as CHOW (BCCC) and  
the Broome County Humane Society; and

**WHEREAS,** Outside of work, George F. Akel, Jr. made the most of his  
life; he skied in Lech with friends and traveled to France and Beirut to  
see family; he loved opera and was fortunate to have seen his favorite  
masterpieces in different venues; despite his adventures "abroad," his  
heart was always in his beloved Binghamton, whether enjoying the company  
of his many friends, golfing, playing bridge, or tending to his cat,  
Bissey; and

**WHEREAS,** A congregant of Trinity Church, George F. Akel, Jr. was  
predeceased by his grandmother, Delia; his parents, George and  
Georgette; brother, Ferris; Uncle Metrie; Aunt Renee; Aunt Yvette; and  
cousin Lillian; he is survived by his college sweetheart and wife of 52  
years, Sara "Sally"; his three children, Andrea (Ib), George (Laura),

and Jeffrey (Erin); six grandchildren, Sadie, Owen, Callie, Zane, Zach, and Alexander; one brother, Ronald (Beth); a sister-in-law, Louise; his Uncle Antoine (Janine); first cousins, Yvette, Madeline, and Renee; and his nieces and nephews, Stephanie (Jeff), Nicole (Paul), Ferris, Martine (John), Philip (Bridget), Donald and Kara (John); as well as many other cousins and friends; and

**WHEREAS,** While his strong work ethic and diplomatic style will be remembered by the business community, George F. Akel, Jr.'s family and friends will remember him as a kind, modest and principled man; a consummate gentleman, a loyal friend and husband, and a loving father and grandfather, he reveled in the joy of both his children and his grandchildren's lives and his legacy will live on through them; and

**WHEREAS,** Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, George F. Akel, Jr. 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 George F. Akel, Jr., and to 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 George F. Akel, Jr.