

**BY:** Senator GALLIVAN

**MOURNING** the death of John F. Copeland,  
distinguished citizen and devoted member of his  
community

**WHEREAS,** It is with profound sorrow that this Legislative Body, representing the people of the State of New York, is moved this day to pay tribute to an eminent man of indomitable faith and dedication whose public service and countless accomplishments will forever stand as a paradigm and inspiration for others; and

**WHEREAS,** John F. Copeland of Bliss, New York, died on Saturday, January 4, 2020, at the age of 69; and

**WHEREAS,** Born on April 13, 1950, in Port Allegany, Pennsylvania, to the late Francis B. and Jean C. (Long) Copeland, John F. Copeland was a 1969 graduate of Arcade Central School; and

**WHEREAS,** John F. Copeland received an associate degree in Criminal Justice from Genesee Community College while proudly serving his country as a member of the United States Army from 1969 to 1971; and

**WHEREAS,** In a career which traversed more than three decades, John F. Copeland served as a Deputy Sheriff, Road Patrol Captain and Undersheriff for the Wyoming County Sheriff's Department; he was an active member of the Wyoming County Sheriff's Mounted Unit, serving as its Captain for several years; and

**WHEREAS,** John F. Copeland was elected Supervisor for the Town of Wethersfield in 2003, the esteemed position he faithfully served until his death; and

**WHEREAS,** With a steadfast and unwavering commitment to his community, John F. Copeland was Chair of the Public Safety Committee for the Wyoming County Board of Supervisors, as well as a member of the Arcade VFW and the Eagle Post and Strykersville Post American Legion; and

**WHEREAS,** Furthermore, he was a Board member of the North American Police Equestrian Council and enjoyed horseback riding and hunting; and

**WHEREAS,** John F. Copeland is survived by his wife, Jackie (Cooper) Copeland whom he married on August 28, 1991; three children, Shannon Copeland, Shane Copeland and Eric Peet; and three siblings, Diana Mayer, David (Robin) Copeland and Eleanor (Tom Matthews) Copeland; as well as several nieces and nephews; and

**WHEREAS,** Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, John F. Copeland 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 John F. Copeland, distinguished citizen 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 John F. Copeland.