

BY: Senator LAVALLE

MOURNING the death of Jeananne Dawson,
distinguished citizen and devoted member of her
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, Jeananne Dawson, of Mastic, New York, died at the age of 71; and

WHEREAS, A true pillar of her community, Jeananne Dawson was a 40-year member and former Vice President of the William Floyd Board of Education; her unwavering dedication, vision, and pride in her school community has helped the district grow into the success that it has become today; and

WHEREAS, Jeananne Dawson's involvement in William Floyd began in 1975, when she and her husband, Richard, and son Mark, settled in Mastic, a small bucolic town on the south shore of Long Island; and

WHEREAS, During her early years in the district, Jeananne Dawson began actively attending school board meetings; often stating that a system is only as good as the people involved in it, she decided she needed to make a change; and

WHEREAS, Jeananne Dawson applied for and was appointed a spot on the William Floyd Board of Education in 1979; she was then elected and subsequently re-elected by the community for 13 consecutive three-year terms; and

WHEREAS, During her tenure of superb leadership, Jeananne Dawson was instrumental in creating and incorporating a growing sense of vision and community, as well as the pursuit and attainment of advances in curriculum philosophy and consistent growth in the academic process; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, she was influential in bringing the award-winning NJROTC program to the district and helped initiate state-of-the-art building projects which eventually led to the end of split sessions and portable classrooms; and

WHEREAS, In addition to all these advancements and accomplishments in the school district, the proudest moments of Jeananne Dawson's tenure were in the early 1980s when William Floyd High School earned the **Newsday** High School of the Year Award, and Moriches Elementary School earned the distinction of National School of Excellence; and

WHEREAS, Due to her long list of tremendous accomplishments as a member of the William Floyd School Board, Jeananne Dawson was duly

honored in May 2019, by the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association for her 40 years of dedicated and distinguished service to the William Floyd School District students and community; and

WHEREAS, Perhaps Jeananne Dawson's greatest legacy is that of her children and grandchildren who have witnessed her selfless dedication to volunteerism and love for her community throughout their lives; she is survived by her husband, Richard; their son Mark (Lauren); daughter Michelle (Ricky); two grandchildren, Brody, Bella; and a step-grandson, Devin; she is predeceased by her brother, Jim; and

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

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Jeananne Dawson, distinguished citizen and devoted member of her community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Jeananne Dawson.