

**BY:** Senator LITTLE

**COMMENDING** Russell Banks upon the occasion of his designation for special honor by the Adirondack Film Festival on October 25, 2019

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor and pay tribute to those organizations and individuals whose commitment and creative talents contribute to the cultural enrichment and entertainment of their community and the entire State of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Russell Banks upon the occasion of his designation for special honor by the Adirondack Film Festival, to be celebrated with a tribute dinner at the High Peaks Resort on Friday, October 25, 2019; and

**WHEREAS,** Russell Banks is an American poet and novelist known for his portrayals of ordinary and often marginalized people as they face hardships in their lives; and

**WHEREAS,** This respected man is also well regarded for the time he has given to strengthen the talents of others as a professor of writing at Emerson College in Boston, and the University of New Hampshire at Durham, in addition to his time as the Howard G. B. Clark University Professor of Writing at Princeton University; and

**WHEREAS,** Russell Banks has also significantly contributed to the Lake Placid Film Festival; in 1998, he arranged for the national premiere of **The Sweet Hereafter**, a film which was based on his novel of the same name, to first air at the festival; and

**WHEREAS,** Subsequently, due to the popularity of the event, Russell Banks along with his team presented the idea of the Lake Placid Film Forum, which has since been renamed the Lake Placid Film Festival; and

**WHEREAS,** A few years into the Film Forum, Russell Banks was influential in creating the 24-hour competition known as Sleepless in Lake Placid, which invited northeastern film schools to send teams of students to create and screen short films using local sites and residents of the community as actors; and

**WHEREAS,** Furthermore, Russell Banks assisted in developing a theme and criteria for the teams to interpret and feature in their films, and he often served on the panel that selected the winners of the competition; and

**WHEREAS,** Russell Banks has been called upon to contribute his time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of himself unstintingly; and

**WHEREAS,** Throughout the entire period of his community service, a period of constructive involvement, Russell Banks has stood constant in

dignity, good grace and humor; and

**WHEREAS,** Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Russell Banks has displayed throughout his life; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Russell Banks upon the occasion of his designation for special honor by the Adirondack Film Festival on October 25, 2019; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Russell Banks.