

BY: Senator METZGER

MOURNING the death of Jackie Horner, dance professional, distinguished citizen and devoted member of her community

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to those individuals of artistic significance whose creative talents have contributed to the cultural enrichment of our communities and our Nation; and

WHEREAS, With feelings of deepest regret, this Legislative Body records the passing of one of New York State's cherished citizens, Jackie Horner, legendary entertainer and longtime resident of the Town of Liberty in Sullivan County; and

WHEREAS, Jackie Horner, who won the hearts of audiences and entertainers worldwide with her dancing and ebullient personality, died on Saturday, February 8, 2020, at the age of 87; and

WHEREAS, Born Elizabeth Horner to military man Jackson C. and Esther Collins Horner on July 9, 1932, in Gallipolis, Ohio, she traveled to Florida, and many naval bases throughout her childhood; and

WHEREAS, At the young age of three, Jackie Horner began dancing, and was teaching ballet and tap at her aunt's dance studio by the age of 13; upon graduating from high school three years later, she earned a spot with the June Taylor Dancers, and appeared on television with numerous celebrities; and

WHEREAS, After dancing her way across the United States, Canada, South America, and Mexico, Jackie Horner came to the Catskills to do a show at the Grossinger's Hotel in March of 1954; after a successful performance, she was asked by management to stay and teach ballroom/Latin dancing; and

WHEREAS, During these happy years, Jackie Horner met and married her co-worker Lou Goldstein, and continued to train many dancers; in the much loved 1987 film, "Dirty Dancing," the character of Frances "Baby" Houseman was modelled after one of her young students; and

WHEREAS, Upon the closing of Grossinger's Hotel, Jackie Horner continued to teach dance at numerous other Borscht Belt hotels into the 1990s, and most recently, she taught at the Villa Roma Resort and the Fitness Center in Liberty; and

WHEREAS, Known for her warm personality, Jackie Horner was a treasured and active part of her community, and would do anything for anybody; she could often be found telling stories with her friends at the Liberty Diner, or buying red velvet cupcakes from Floyd and Bobo's Bakery and Snack Palace; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by her loving husband, Jackie Horner is survived by her devoted sister, Esther Smith, and many nieces, nephews, dance enthusiasts and friends who will long cherish her memory; and

WHEREAS, Through her boundless love and profound words of wisdom, Jackie Horner's legacy of true grace and luminous beauty, inside and out, will shine on through her family's vivid and happy memories; her shining light and strength will forever serve as a beacon of love and hope for all who were privileged to have known and loved such an amazing and dynamic woman; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Jackie Horner, dance professional, 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 Jackie Horner.