

**BY:** Senator KENNEDY

**MOURNING** the death of Ronald Peoples, retired educator, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community

**WHEREAS**, There are certain outstanding members of our community who, through their selfless commitment and dedication, served to better the quality of life in their community and had a measurable positive impact on the lives of its residents; Ronald Peoples was one such individual; and

**WHEREAS**, Retired Buffalo Public Schools educator, Ronald Peoples of Snyder, New York, died on Thursday, April 2, 2020, at the age of 86, due to complications related to the coronavirus; and

**WHEREAS**, Ronald Peoples distinguished himself in his profession and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community; and

**WHEREAS**, After the Buffalo native was discharged from the Navy in 1957, Ronald Peoples earned a bachelor's degree at St. Cloud State University in Minnesota; he then returned to Buffalo and was hired as the first African-American teacher at School 82; and

**WHEREAS**, Ronald Peoples also earned two master's degrees in special education and educational administration; and

**WHEREAS**, Advancing from the classroom, Ronald Peoples went on to serve as the district's Home School Coordinator/Counselor at Woodlawn Junior High School, and then as the district's Elementary School Supervisor; and

**WHEREAS**, When he retired in 1995 after 35 years of valuable service, Ronald Peoples became the Director of Adult Education for the district; and

**WHEREAS**, Ronald Peoples' commitment to excellence, and his spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

**WHEREAS**, At the time of his death, Ronald Peoples was still active in senior citizen track and field events; he was also working for the Community Action Organization of Western New York's Second Chance Program; he would meet with young incarcerated people to try and change their lives while they were in jail as well as upon their release; and

**WHEREAS**, Among Ronald Peoples' most important affiliations was his membership in the Buffalo Chapter of the African-American fraternity Omega Psi Phi, a brotherhood that performs service to the community; he was also a congregant of Bethel AME Church; and

**WHEREAS,** Ronald Peoples was an avid sports fan his whole life, with a special devotion to the University at Buffalo's men's and women's basketball teams; and

**WHEREAS,** In a 2017 "Salute to Local War Heroes" story in **The Buffalo News**, Ronald Peoples was more eager to talk about his children's accomplishments than his experiences as a Cold War veteran assigned to a Navy ship that searched for enemy submarines in the Atlantic Ocean; and

**WHEREAS,** Always thinking and doing for others, he was a people person; if he was not doing something for somebody else, his life would not have meant anything to him; and

**WHEREAS,** Predeceased by his wife, the former Arlene Miles, and one daughter, Rachel, Ronald Peoples is survived by his daughter, Monica; his two sons, Ronald and Brian; and four grandchildren and one great-grandchild; and

**WHEREAS,** Ronald Peoples will be remembered as a kind and generous man who was also courteous, thoughtful, and compassionate; he will be truly missed by all those who had the privilege and honor of knowing him; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Ronald Peoples, 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 Ronald Peoples.