

Senate Resolution No. 3177

**BY:** Senator LITTLE

**MOURNING** the death of Ralph D. Jaquish, family man, former fire chief and town council member, and distinguished citizen

**WHEREAS,** The quality and character of life in this Nation, and the great State of New York, is reflective of the purposeful lives and good works of those patriotic and civic-minded community members who dedicate their lives and careers to the service of others; and

**WHEREAS,** This Legislative Body is moved to publicly mourn the death of those prominent citizens whose lifework and purposeful endeavors have served to enrich and enhance the quality and character of life for others in their community and the great State of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** It is with feelings of great sorrow and deepest regret that this Legislative Body records the passing of Ralph D. Jaquish, family man, former fire chief and town council member, and distinguished citizen; and

**WHEREAS,** Ralph D. Jaquish of Moriah, New York, died on Tuesday, April 14, 2020, at the age of 88; and

**WHEREAS,** Ralph "Chic" Donald Jaquish was born on April 16, 1931, to Martha (Malbon) and Ralza Jaquish; in 1950, he enlisted in the United States Air Force and proudly served his country for six months until the death of his father; and

**WHEREAS,** Upon his return to Moriah, Ralph D. Jaquish took over his father's position at the Republic Steel mines to help provide for his family; and

**WHEREAS,** On June 22, 1952, Ralph D. Jaquish married the former Ruth Christian and together, they purchased their life long home on South Road in Moriah, where they raised their nine children; and

**WHEREAS,** In addition to his job at Republic Steel, Ralph D. Jaquish ran his own electrical contracting business and ultimately worked for International Paper for 27 years, retiring in 1992; and

**WHEREAS,** Ralph D. Jaquish truly loved his large family and his community, serving as a member of the Moriah Volunteer Fire Department for 58 years, 53 of which he held the esteemed title of Chief; in 2008, he was selected grand marshal of the Port Henry Labor Day Parade, saluting his 50-year anniversary as fire chief in 2009; and

**WHEREAS,** In 2012, Ralph D. Jaquish officially retired from his role as Chief at the age of 81; at this time, he was recognized for being the longest serving fire chief in the state of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** Ralph D. Jaquish was also a member of the Moriah Town Council for nine years, and in that capacity, he oversaw operation and improvements to the town's Buiwagga Bay Campground on Lake Champlain; and

**WHEREAS,** When not working, renovating the Jaquish home or serving his community, Ralph D. Jaquish enjoyed camping with his family and in later years, touring the United States and Canada with his wife in their motor home; and

**WHEREAS,** Predeceased by two brothers-in-laws, Gene (Beatrice) Comeau and Robert Harnden; one sister, Betty Harnden; one brother, James (Laura) Jaquish; one daughter, Jeanne (William) Suddard; and one great-granddaughter, Kelsey Suddard, Ralph D. Jaquish is survived by his wife of 67 years Ruth; five sons, Donald (Louann), Thomas (Laura), Randal (Susan), Frederick (June), and Richard; three daughters, Candy (Thomas), Sandra (Paul), and Mary Ann (John); two sisters, Beatrice Comeau and Carol (Earle) Fish; one sister-in-law, Laura (James); and 20 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild, as well as a legion of firefighters and friends who will long cherish his memory; and

**WHEREAS,** Throughout his meritorious life, Ralph D. Jaquish truly served his family with love and wisdom and his community with a steadfast and unremitting commitment; he will forever be remembered as an incredible husband, father, and grandfather and for his role as a mentor to numerous firefighters in Moriah, and in New York State as a whole; and

**WHEREAS,** Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Ralph D. Jaquish 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 Ralph D. Jaquish, family man, former fire chief and town council member, and distinguished citizen; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Ralph D. Jaquish.