

BY: Senator HINCHEY

MOURNING the death of Tommy Keegan, beloved Hudson Valley craft brewing pioneer and pillar of the community

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

WHEREAS, It is with profound sorrow and deep regret that this Legislative Body records the passing of Tommy Keegan, noting the significance of his purposeful life and accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Tommy Keegan, an esteemed resident of Kingston, New York, and a beloved Hudson Valley brewing pioneer, died on Friday, April 30, 2021, at the age of 50; and

WHEREAS, A native of Long Island, Tommy Keegan was working as a brewmaster at a Long Island beer company when he heard about the vacant Brewery on Saint James Street in Midtown Kingston; and

WHEREAS, In 2003, before much of the world was interested in craft beer, Tommy Keegan, along with his family, moved to Kingston and purchased the historic run-down brewery; and

WHEREAS, Keegan Ales brewed its first batch of beers on August 1, 2003; the brewery started as only a tasting room open a couple of afternoons a week with Tommy marketing his beers to local bars and restaurants himself; and

WHEREAS, For the next two decades, Tommy Keegan continued to innovate, creating top selling beers such as Mother's Milk and Hurricane Kitty, and beginning a successful and headline grabbing collaboration with IHOP on a pumpkin pancake stout; and

WHEREAS, Since its inception, Keegan Ales has grown from a small operation offering just three craft ales, to a vast array of brews that can be found on tap lines and in beer cases across the Hudson Valley; by 2005, Tommy Keegan added a bottling line and in 2007, he added the pub; and

WHEREAS, With a steadfast and unwavering commitment to his community, Tommy Keegan participated in countless charitable endeavors including his support of the People's Place food pantry, thrift store, and cafe, the O+ Festival and the Ulster County Chamber of Commerce; Tommy and Kegan Ales also have sponsored the annual Mac n Cheese Bake-off competition whose proceeds support Angel Food East, providing 250 hot meals a week to the elderly and chronically ill who are home-bound in the community; Keegan Ales strives to support one charity

every week; and

WHEREAS, Tommy's environmentalism, a passion sharpened in his years of service with the US Coast Guard, was always at the forefront of his charitable endeavors, evidenced by Tommy's steadfast support for local environmental and agricultural groups like Riverkeeper and Rondout Valley Growers both philanthropically and by donating beer for their events; and

WHEREAS, Tommy Keegan lived by his mantra, Have Fun, Play Nice; he was well-liked and respected by all; Tommy loved his community and strived to make it a better place for all and always generously opened his door for any community need or event; and

WHEREAS, Tommy Keegan's infinite selflessness and benevolence will shine on through his community's vivid and happy memories; his insight and strength will forever serve as a beacon of love, light and hope to the countless lives he touched; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Tommy Keegan leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all who were privileged to have known and loved such an amazing man; he will be deeply missed and truly merits the grateful tribute of this Legislative Body; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Tommy Keegan, 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 Tommy Keegan.