

BY: Senator O'MARA

HONORING The Reverend John C. Humphries, Jr. upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the Friends of Woodlawn Cemetery on April 21, 2022

WHEREAS, The character and richness of religious and community life in this noble Empire State is nourished and fulfilled through the faithful concern and selfless devotion of those who would commit their energies and purpose to the ministry of others; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to bring full recognition and just tribute to those individuals who distinguish themselves and the ministry through their unremitting commitment and preeminence of service; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor The Reverend John C. Humphries, Jr. upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the Friends of Woodlawn Cemetery on Thursday, April 21, 2022, during which time he will also receive the Key to the City of Elmira from Mayor Daniel J. Mandell, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Reverend John C. Humphries, Jr. was installed as the 15th Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in Elmira, New York on November 15, 1975, and was known to all thereafter as "Jack"; and

WHEREAS, During his illustrious tenure as Rector, John C. Humphries, Jr. served as President of the Home for the Aged and President of its successor, Woodbrook Assisted Living; he was also a founding member of the Inter-Church Cluster which established Second Place East Homeless Shelter, the Elmira Community Kitchen, Southern Tier Hospice Care, and the Ecumenical Preaching Mission; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, through the Cluster there was also a sharing with sister churches in education, community outreach and worship, for which he was often called upon as the preacher; joint worship services included World Communion Sunday, Ash Wednesday, and Summers Together during July and August; and

WHEREAS, A native of Alexandria, Virginia, John C. Humphries, Jr. graduated from Lynchburg College, served three years in the armed forces, and subsequently earned his Master of Divinity from Virginia Theological Seminary; and

WHEREAS, Prior to coming to Elmira, Reverend John C. Humphries, Jr. served as Vicar of St. Mark's Mission in Wadsworth, Ohio, and both Assistant Rector and Priest-in-Charge at St. Mark's Church in Mount Kisco, New York; and

WHEREAS, Upon Reverend John C. Humphries, Jr. retirement in December

1997 he purchased the rectory, then located at 405 Euclid Avenue; and

WHEREAS, With a steadfast and unwavering commitment to his community, Reverend John C. Humphries, Jr. has served as a Trustee of the Chemung County Historical Society, Historian of the City of Elmira, President of the Elmira Torch Club, a Commissioner on the Elmira Historic Preservation Commission, and President of the Friends of Woodlawn Cemetery, Elmira, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, For many years, Reverend John C. Humphries, Jr. brought to his ministry an overwhelming spirit of charity and compassion, acting from vision and enlightenment in conducting his administrative and spiritual duties, while always displaying the highest standards of personal and professional integrity and dedication; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his four children, John, Matt, David and Sarah, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his many achievements; and

WHEREAS, This distinguished man of God has always given enlightenment, guidance and wisdom to the many entrusted to his care and has administered abundantly and unstintingly to the spiritual and corporal needs of all; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when a person of such noble aims and accomplishments is brought to our attention it is appropriate to publicly and jubilantly proclaim and commend that individual for the edification of others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor The Reverend John C. Humphries, Jr., noting his unremitting and compassionate faith and his exemplary service to God, man, and his community, and extending to him the heartfelt best wishes of this Legislative Body for a future of purposeful success and well-being; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Reverend John C. Humphries, Jr.