

**BY:** Senator MAY

**MOURNING** the death of John J. Murray,  
distinguished citizen and devoted member of his  
community

**WHEREAS,** It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to citizens of the State of New York whose lifework and civic endeavor served to enhance the quality of life in their communities and this great Empire State; and

**WHEREAS,** John Joseph Murray of Syracuse, New York, died on Thursday, February 24, 2022, at the age of 93; and

**WHEREAS,** Born in Yonkers, New York, on November 17, 1928, John J. Murray was the only child of John and Alice Murray, who both emigrated from the "old country" as teenagers; his maternal grandmother and his cousin, Alice, shared his childhood home; and

**WHEREAS,** John J. Murray married the love of his life, the former Nancy Sullivan, in 1951, and together they raised eight children in Syracuse, with many summers spent at Charleston Lake, Ontario; and

**WHEREAS,** He was known for his smile, love for his community and zest for life; John's father, who had a 6th grade education, helped him with spelling using Latin from his education with the Christian Brothers in Ireland; John was a proud "Christian Brother boy" too, graduating from Manhattan Prep and Manhattan College; and

**WHEREAS,** On his first day at the Prep, John J. Murray was exposed to Dorothy Day through her newspaper **The Catholic Worker**; he read it and was hooked; she exposed him to the impact of mercy on hopelessness and set him on a path of peace and justice; he felt he had three crucial mentors in his life: Dorothy Day, Father Charles Brady, and the best of his life, his wife, Nancy; and

**WHEREAS,** John J. Murray joined the United States Army during the Korean War era, and volunteered for an Army counterintelligence post in Syracuse; and

**WHEREAS,** John J. Murray distinguished himself in his profession and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community; and

**WHEREAS,** Upon the completion of his military service, John J. Murray worked for General Electric; he resigned with Nancy's approval when GE sponsored a visit to Syracuse by Senator Joseph McCarthy; he then became the first full-time employee of the Syracuse University Research Corporation (SURC); and

**WHEREAS,** John J. Murray enjoyed SURC, but left to work for the Crusade for Opportunity, an early anti-poverty program in Syracuse; that

led to his job as Executive Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, in Poughkeepsie, New York; and

**WHEREAS**, John and Nancy Murray missed the Syracuse community, so they moved back and John first became the Assistant Director and then the Director of the Regional Medical Program of Central New York; and

**WHEREAS**, John J. Murray worked to improve health outcomes in a service area stretching from the St. Lawrence River to northern Pennsylvania; he was particularly proud of their pioneering work to provide at-home dialysis units to people in need; and

**WHEREAS**, John J. Murray then moved on to the American Management Association and, eventually, his own company, Management Circle Consultants; in both of these businesses, he facilitated long term planning processes for clients as diverse as the Catholic Relief Services in Africa and a Pineapple Growers' Association in Hawaii; he believed every person in the organization mattered, and prided himself on including in his processes everyone from Housekeeping to CEO; and

**WHEREAS**, John J. Murray worked into his late 70s, including significant pro bono work in the Syracuse area; he and Nancy gave time and energy to activism and community service; they were both involved in the Catholic Interracial Council in the early 1950s, and broader civil rights efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, John J. Murray's commitment to excellence, and his spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

**WHEREAS**, John J. Murray joined Martin Luther King Jr. in the March on Washington in 1963; he was deeply involved with Housing Visions in Syracuse, helping to create affordable housing in healthy neighborhoods; and

**WHEREAS**, He volunteered with the Road to Jericho and Jail Ministry to help re-integrate formerly incarcerated persons back into the community; he was also instrumental in United Way's Success by Six to give all kids a good start in life; and

**WHEREAS**, John J. Murray loved Syracuse and worked constantly to make it better; he helped create community gardens and worked for years to create a system of safe bicycle trails around the city; and

**WHEREAS**, John J. Murray was recently honored with the designation of a portion of Meadowbrook Drive as "John Murray Ave."; and

**WHEREAS**, He was one of the city's volunteer beekeepers, relocating stray colonies; and he participated in the Thursday Morning Roundtable (TMR) for more than 50 years, and was once named Volunteer of the Year; he saw TMR as the perfect venue to bring diverse people together to make Syracuse great; and

**WHEREAS**, As an Army veteran, John J. Murray stood for peace; he demonstrated against United States military actions for decades,

including the use of drones operated from Hancock Airport; and

**WHEREAS**, John J. Murray's concern for peace and justice was nourished by the faith he and Nancy shared with the St. Andrews community for more than 40 years, followed by "St. Andrews Outside the Walls", St. Lucy's and All Saints; through these parishes, he supported a health center in Nicaragua, refugees settling in Syracuse, and the St. Lucy's soup kitchen; and

**WHEREAS**, A man of significant energy, John J. Murray was a Senior Olympian swimmer for years and biked the hills of Syracuse into his 80s; and

**WHEREAS**, Predeceased by his beloved grandson, Max, his adored daughter-in-law, Ann-Marie (Martin), grandsons, Adam and Taylor who he didn't get the chance to know but would have loved, and his best friend, Vince O'Neil, John J. Murray is survived by his wife of 70 years, Nancy; their eight children, Cathie (Mike), Martin, Eileen, Sean (Deb), Maureen, Meg (Ivan), Brendan and Clare (Mike); his grandchildren, Evan (Kristen), Neal (Hilary), Erin, Sheila (James), Caitlin (David), Connor, Shannon, Beth, Sha (David), Martin (Claudia), Sean (Fallon), Brian (Seunghee), Sarah and Elizabeth; and his great-grandchildren, Olivia, Aiden, Becca, Cody, Ryan, Eva and Cam; in addition, he is survived by a myriad of nieces, nephews and cousins on both the Sullivan and Murray sides who held him in deep affection, as well as wonderful friends he made during 70 years in Syracuse; and

**WHEREAS**, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, John J. Murray 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; 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 John J. Murray, 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 John J. Murray.