

BY: Senator HARCKHAM

MOURNING the death of Robert Spatta, renowned firefighter, 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 the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is moved to mourn the death of Robert Spatta of Croton-on-Hudson, New York, who died on Sunday, February 14, 2021, at the age of 76; and

WHEREAS, Robert Spatta was born on September 2, 1944, to John and Clara Spatta in Yonkers, New York; and

WHEREAS, Robert Spatta joined the Croton-on-Hudson Fire Department (CFD), Washington Engine Company No. 2 in 1984, and quickly became a staple; he was affectionately known by his brothers in the firehouse as Duke, Big Bob, or Uncle Bob; and

WHEREAS, An active member of the Croton-on-Hudson Fire Department for 36 years, Robert Spatta served as a past Captain and Honorary ex-Chief of Washington Engine Company No. 2 and as a former Warden of the Fire Council, as well as numerous other leadership positions; and

WHEREAS, As one of the founding Firefighter Assist and Search Team (FASTeam) members, Robert Spatta was instrumental in a rescue effort in Ossining in 1999; during the massive blaze, this courageous man helped rescue multiple civilians, including his own son and two fellow firefighters, before having to be rescued himself when he became trapped in a top floor apartment; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, in the days following the terrorist attacks of the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, Robert Spatta, along with his sons and other CFD members, assisted with efforts to locate victims at the site of Ground Zero; and

WHEREAS, A true asset to his community, Robert Spatta was also a member of the Ossining Volunteer Fire Department and an honorary member of the Mohegan Fire District; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his valuable fire service, Robert Spatta proudly served his country as a member of the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, In a career which traversed more than three decades, Robert Spatta gave tirelessly of his time and energies working for the Westchester County Department of Environmental Facilities; and

WHEREAS, Robert Spatta genuinely loved being a firefighter, and through his strong work ethic, great courage and positive attitude, he inspired numerous fellow firefighters; and

WHEREAS, In his free time, Robert Spatta enjoyed being a member of the Lakers Social and Athletic Club of Yonkers; while he was passionate about many things, above all his greatest passion was family time, vacations and spending Sunday dinners with all of his children and grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his parents, John and Clara, and his brother, Warren, Robert Spatta is survived by his wife, Ginny; three children, Kristie (Doug), Dan (Rina) and John (Cynthia); nine grandchildren, Lanie, Vinny, Dan, Dominic, Antonio, Sebastian, Salvatore, Sergio and Stella; and his two sisters, Virginia and Karen; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his meritorious life, Robert Spatta touched many through his kindness and commitment to service, and, as we recall the loss of this great man, we memorialize his remarkable life and the enormous impact he had on everyone with whom he came in contact; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to convey its grateful appreciation and heartfelt regret in recognition of a courageous firefighter who dedicated his purposeful life and career in faithful service to his family and community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Robert Spatta, renowned firefighter, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Robert Spatta.