Assembly Resolution No. 45

BY: M. of A. Norris

MOURNING the death of Richard Lang, distinguished coach, athlete, town supervisor, conservation officer, author, 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, Richard "Dick" Lang of Orchard Park, New York, died on Wednesday, October 5th, at the age of 81; and

WHEREAS, Richard Lang distinguished himself in his profession and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community; and

WHEREAS, He was inducted into numerous area Hall of Fames, as well as the National Wrestling Hall of Fame; the Roy-Hart Kid's Wrestling program and Sports Booster program began under his tutelage; and

WHEREAS, Richard Lang coached wrestling at Roy-Hart and Newfane, winning numerous league and sectional titles and impacting the lives of countless kids; throughout the years, he coached many leagues and sectional champions, including Olympian Lou Roselli; and

WHEREAS, Serving as one of the toughest game wardens in Western New York from 1969 to 2010, Richard Lang had a passion for wildlife and environmental conservation; he was once declared the New York State Conservation Officer of the Year; and

WHEREAS, He authored a book titled **Behind the Badge** which contained numerous stories of his days as a game warden in Niagara County and the surrounding area; and

WHEREAS, A lifetime member of the Western New York Poultry Association, Richard Lang showed championship Bantam chickens from childhood through most of his adult life; and

WHEREAS, An avid pheasant and turkey hunter, he loved being in the great outdoors, especially while working his Brittany Spaniel or calling in a turkey; and

WHEREAS, Always believing in the importance of physical fitness, Richard Lang competed in the Empire State Games and the Police Olympics, emerging victorious as New York's "Toughest Cop"; and

WHEREAS, Richard Lang's commitment to excellence, and his spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, He made an impact on his local community in his capacity as a Royalton Town Board member and Town Supervisor for two terms; and

WHEREAS, Over the last several years, Richard Lang became an avid spectator of various sports, watching his grandkids compete in sports at the high school and college level; he also became an aficionado of musical theatre and attended several performances at local high schools and the Lockport Palace Theatre with his equally proud wife; and

WHEREAS, Richard Lang also loved hanging around his lifelong friends Hank Haas, the Osborne brothers, and his brother David; and

WHEREAS, Richard Lang is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Gretchen; sons John (Therese) and Michael (Deanne); brother, David; brothers-in-law, Dick (Ann), Hank, and Frank; seven grandchildren, Abbey, Hogan, Johnathan, Madigan, Murphy, Kennedy, and McCarthy, as well as several nieces and nephews; he was predeceased by his parents, John R. Lang and Grace Biddlecomb Lang, as well as his sister-in-law, JoAnne Lang; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Richard Lang 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 Richard Lang, distinguished coach, athlete, town supervisor, conservation officer, author, 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 Richard Lang.