

Senate Resolution No. 1156

BY: Senator HARCKHAM

MOURNING the death of Donald Eckhart Sr., United States Air Force veteran, devoted family man and distinguished citizen

WHEREAS, There are certain outstanding members of our community 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; Donald Eckhart Sr. was one such individual; and

WHEREAS, It is with profound sorrow and deep regret that this Legislative Body records the passing of Donald Eckhart Sr. on Friday, May 23, 2025, noting the significance of his purposeful life and accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Donald Eckhart Sr. was born on August 10, 1946, in Allentown, Pennsylvania, to Paul and Mary (Campbell) Eckhart; fondly recalling his childhood, he often shared memories of swimming under every bridge in town and spoke of his upbringing with great pride and joy; and

WHEREAS, Following his youth in Pennsylvania, Donald Eckhart Sr. moved to New York, where he dutifully and honorably served his country as a member of the United States Air Force; and

WHEREAS, In October of 1970, Donald Eckhart Sr. married the love of his life, Diane (Smith) Eckhart, with whom he shared 55 devoted years of marriage, building a life centered on faith, family, and love; together they raised three children and shared their home with a long line of beloved dogs; and

WHEREAS, A dedicated professional, Donald Eckhart Sr. built a respected and accomplished career at IBM, contributing his talents and work ethic to the growth and innovation of the company; and

WHEREAS, Donald Eckhart Sr. was known not only for his professional achievements but also for his vibrant personal life; he found joy on the golf course and was a lifelong and loyal fan of the New York Jets; and

WHEREAS, Above all else, Donald Eckhart Sr. cherished his role as grandfather to Kayla, Kristen, Taylor, Rocco, Elizabeth, and Emily; he found profound happiness in time spent with them and expressed his adoration through endless love and support; and

WHEREAS, Donald Eckhart Sr. is survived by his beloved wife, Diane; his children, Allison (MaryAnn), Donald Jr. (Valerie), and Kristin (Ralph); his cherished grandchildren; and his siblings, Paul (Joyce), Sandra (Roman), David (Sally), and Debra (Mark); and

WHEREAS, Donald Eckhart Sr. will be remembered as a man of

integrity, compassion, and unwavering devotion to his family, friends, and country; he leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter, and honor that will forever live in the hearts of those who knew him; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Donald Eckhart Sr., recognizing his remarkable life and his enduring contributions to his family, community, and nation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Donald Eckhart Sr.