

Senate Resolution No. 1274

BY: Senator HARCKHAM

MOURNING the death of Lance Amato, FIIDA, esteemed design leader, mentor, and advocate for inclusive and human-centered design

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to individuals whose lives and careers have contributed meaningfully to the advancement of their professions and the enrichment of their communities; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is deeply saddened to mourn the death of Lance Amato, FIIDA, a visionary designer and beloved member of New York's interior design community, who died on February 3, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Throughout a distinguished career spanning over two decades, Lance Amato exemplified design excellence, leadership, and service; his strategic vision, creative expertise, and unwavering commitment to mentorship, sustainability, and human-centered design earned him widespread respect in the field and far beyond; and

WHEREAS, A dedicated and dynamic force within the International Interior Design Association's New York Chapter (IIDA NY), Lance Amato served as the youngest-ever Chapter President in 2011 and held numerous other leadership roles, including chairing several committees and co-chairing the Chapter's flagship Leaders Breakfast, a signature event celebrating leadership, innovation, and community-values that defined his work and character; and

WHEREAS, In June 2025, Lance Amato was posthumously inducted into the prestigious IIDA College of Fellows at the IIDA Annual Meeting in Chicago, the highest honor bestowed by the Association; this distinction recognizes his extraordinary contributions to the profession and serves as a testament to the deep and lasting impact of his work and leadership; and

WHEREAS, As Director of Client Experience at Canoa, an innovative platform for designers and architects, Lance Amato continued to drive design excellence through digital collaboration tools that supported creativity and sustainability in the built environment; and

WHEREAS, Admired for his humility, insight, and generosity, Lance Amato was more than a designer—he was a mentor, a storyteller, and a trusted friend to countless colleagues and emerging professionals in the design community; and

WHEREAS, In May 2025, IIDA NY proudly announced the creation of the Lance Amato Award, a tribute to his legacy and a celebration of behind-the-scenes leaders who exemplify dedication, long-term service, and community spirit; this annual honor will recognize volunteers with a decade or more of continuous service who go above and beyond to uplift others and advance the values Lance championed; and

WHEREAS, Lance Amato leaves behind a vibrant legacy of design leadership, mentorship, advocacy, and heartfelt connection that continues to inspire his colleagues, students, and the broader design industry; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Lance Amato, FIIDA, and to recognize with gratitude his immeasurable contributions to interior design and to the professional and creative communities of New York State; and be it further

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