

Senate Resolution No. 1278

BY: Senator HARCKHAM

MOURNING the death of Kent J. Patterson, railroad professional, dedicated public transportation advocate, and distinguished 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 across the state; and

WHEREAS, With profound sorrow and deep regret, this Legislative Body records the passing of Kent J. Patterson, of Dobbs Ferry, New York, who died on August 8, 2025, at the age of 70, surrounded by his beloved partner Shelley, his brother Michael, and his mother Barbara; and

WHEREAS, Kent J. Patterson devoted his life to the advancement of passenger rail service and railroad history, both as a committed professional and an impassioned advocate; and

WHEREAS, After graduating from Dobbs Ferry High School in 1973, Kent J. Patterson immediately began working for the railroad, embarking on a distinguished 37-year career with Penn Central, Conrail, Amtrak, and Metro-North Railroad; he worked in various critical roles, including that of signal tower operator, and developed a vast knowledge of rail operations, always striving to improve the systems he served; and

WHEREAS, Kent J. Patterson's love of trains began in childhood, inspired by trips with his grandfather on the elevated subway lines and watching trains on the New York Central's Putnam Division; his passion remained undimmed throughout his life, finding expression in both his professional work and his prolific involvement with rail history and advocacy; and

WHEREAS, As a longtime and active member of the Empire State Passenger Association (ESPA) and the Rail Passengers Association (RPA), Kent J. Patterson served with distinction as a member of the ESPA Board of Directors and as a RPA Council Representative, where he was instrumental in organizing meetings with New York's congressional staff for annual "Day on the Hill" events in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, Kent J. Patterson was widely respected by his colleagues for his unwavering dedication, deep knowledge of rail operations, and consistently positive outlook; and

WHEREAS, He was also a contributor to railroad history, recently authoring a reflective piece titled "DV Tower" for the Penn Central Post, the publication of the Penn Central Railroad Historical Society, in which he recounted memories from his time working on the railroad and his early experiences that sparked a lifelong fascination with passenger trains; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, he was held in high esteem not only for his knowledge and professional contributions, but also for his kindness, enthusiasm, and enduring commitment to the cause of better rail service for all New Yorkers and Americans; and

WHEREAS, Kent J. Patterson leaves behind a legacy of service, passion, and friendship, and will be deeply missed by his loved ones, colleagues, and all who had the privilege to work with him or benefit from his efforts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Kent J. Patterson, recognizing his significant contributions to the rail industry and passenger advocacy in New York State and beyond; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Kent J. Patterson.