

Senate Resolution No. 1282

BY: Senator HARCKHAM

MOURNING the death of Richard Jackson Jr., former Peekskill mayor 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 the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Richard Jackson Jr. of Peekskill, New York, died on Sunday, August 10, 2025, at the age of 80; and

WHEREAS, Born to the late Reverends Richard and Willma McKenzie Jackson, Richard Jackson Jr. was a lifelong mathematics educator, inspiring students over the course of generations; and

WHEREAS, Richard Jackson Jr. graduated from the University of Bridgeport and earned a master's degree from Fordham University; and

WHEREAS, Richard Jackson Jr. married the love of his life, Ruth-a music teacher and gifted pianist-with whom he had four children; the loving couple were married for almost 54 years before Ruth's passing in June of 2023; and

WHEREAS, With a joy for life and service to others, Richard Jackson Jr. found a calling in public service and became the mayor of Peekskill in 1984 and won subsequent elections, serving in this capacity until 1991; and

WHEREAS, New York State Governor George Pataki- a friend and longtime professional counterpart-later appointed Richard Jackson Jr. as Commissioner of the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles in 1995, where he dutifully fulfilled the obligations of this role for five years; and

WHEREAS, A devoted Christian, Richard Jackson Jr. lived his beliefs through action, helping to transform the churches he served, guiding Bible studies, and offering quiet counsel; his words always reflected a steady, abiding faith and a conviction in the power of love and community; and

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

WHEREAS, An exceptionally dedicated citizen, Richard Jackson Jr. is also remembered for his impact on the Peekskill St. Patrick's Parade; he was known for supporting a \$500 grant to help jump-start the parade approved by the Common Council; and

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

WHEREAS, Richard Jackson Jr. is survived by his four children, Tara (William), Alice (Frank Jolley), Abigail (Dominick Martin), and William (Chris); six grandchildren; his sister, Janet Bowles; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Richard Jackson Jr. 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 Jackson Jr.; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Richard Jackson Jr.