Senate Resolution No. 1505

**BY:** Senator GALLIVAN

**HONORING** Denis Kitchen upon the occasion of his designation as Lifetime Achiever of the Year by the Clarence Chamber of Commerce, to be celebrated on March 19, 2026

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize those individuals whose lifetime of service, leadership, and professional achievement has left a lasting and meaningful impact upon their community, state, and nation; and

**WHEREAS,** Denis Kitchen has been selected as the Lifetime Achiever of the Year by the Clarence Chamber of Commerce, an honor to be bestowed at the Chamber's 53rd Annual Awards Gala on Thursday, March 19, 2026, at Samuel's Grande Manor in Williamsville, New York; and

**WHEREAS,** Born in Buffalo, New York in 1943, Denis Kitchen has spent nearly his entire life in Western New York, with the exception of five years of active-duty service in the United States Navy, exemplifying a lifelong commitment to both his community and his country; and

**WHEREAS,** Denis Kitchen is a graduate of Kenmore West High School, Class of 1961, and earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the Rochester Institute of Technology in 1965, where he was elected Vice President of the Student Body, demonstrating early leadership and dedication to service; and

**WHEREAS,** He furthered his education by earning a Master of Science in Education from Indiana University in 1966, and later a Juris Doctor degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo Law School in 1976, where he was appointed to Moot Court, reflecting academic excellence and professional promise; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1967, Denis Kitchen joined the United States Navy, serving as a Naval Aviator and flight instructor, and later continued his service in the Naval Reserve, from which he retired after 21 years with the rank of Commander, a testament to his dedication, leadership, and patriotism; and

**WHEREAS,** Since 1976, Denis Kitchen has practiced law in local, state, and federal courts, including the United States Court of Appeals, and has further contributed to the legal profession by teaching continuing legal education courses through the National Business Institute and serving as an adjunct faculty member at Canisius College; and

**WHEREAS,** Denis Kitchen's professional and civic involvement includes membership in the Erie County Bar Association, the Christian Legal Society, and the American Center for Law and Justice, as well as affiliation with Alliance Defending Freedom, reflecting his deep commitment to ethical leadership and service; and

**WHEREAS,** His dedication to community life is further demonstrated through his service as President of the Board of Christian Counseling Ministries of Western New York, President of the Clarence Toastmasters Club, and as an Elder at Love Joy Gospel Church, where he has provided guidance, mentorship, and steadfast leadership; and

**WHEREAS,** Denis Kitchen has shared a life of partnership and devotion with his wife, Nancy Kitchen, whom he met while attending Rochester Institute of Technology; married in 1967, they will celebrate their 59th wedding anniversary in June, and are the proud parents of Denis M. Kitchen, Jennifer Kitchen McGann, and Elisabeth Kitchen; and

**WHEREAS,** The Clarence Chamber of Commerce's designation of Denis Kitchen as Lifetime Achiever of the Year is a fitting recognition of a life defined by service, integrity, leadership, and unwavering commitment to family, profession, and community; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Denis Kitchen upon the occasion of his designation as Lifetime Achiever of the Year by the Clarence Chamber of Commerce on March 19, 2026; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Denis Kitchen.