

BY: Senator HINCHEY

MOURNING the death of Ronald F. Lipton,
distinguished citizen, devoted public servant, and
cherished 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 endeavors served to enhance the quality of life in their communities and this great State; and

WHEREAS, Ronald "Ron" F. Lipton, a respected community leader and impassioned public servant, died on January 22, 2026, at the age of 85, in Lexington, New York; and

WHEREAS, Born in 1940 and raised in New York and Connecticut, Ron Lipton lived a life defined by intellectual curiosity, a love of the outdoors, and a deep and abiding commitment to civic engagement and public service; and

WHEREAS, Ron Lipton embodied the idea that it is insufficient to only discuss the issues facing the world; rather, each person must also actively work to change the world for the better, starting in their own community; and

WHEREAS, As a young professor of political science at New York University during the late 1960s, Ron Lipton inspired his students to grapple with the difficult questions and issues of their time; and

WHEREAS, As someone whose vision extended beyond our own continent, he was deeply committed to humanitarian service and global engagement with these ideals, leading him to work with the international aid organization CARE in the early 1970s, and spending several years in Iran advancing long-term development initiatives, strengthening rural infrastructure, and establishing health education and nutrition centers; and

WHEREAS, Returning to the United States, Ron Lipton continued his public service in California as an advisor to then-Governor Jerry Brown during a pivotal era of environmental and economic reform, contributing to forward-thinking initiatives including environmental conservation efforts, renewable energy advancement, and programs supporting young people and working families; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his life, Ron Lipton remained steadfast in his dedication to improving the lives of others, later contributing his talents in Florida through the development of an innovative independent school, management of a medical clinic serving economically disadvantaged communities, and assistance to individuals navigating Medicare; and

WHEREAS, Upon relocating to Lexington, New York in 2006, what might

have been a period of retirement instead became a new chapter of active community involvement, as he offered his time, skills, and insight to neighbors, local businesses, and civic causes on the Mountain Top; and

WHEREAS, He served with distinction as Co-Chair of the Lexington Town Democratic Committee, and was an active member of Mountain Top Progressives; Ron Lipton was a valued voice in local politics and a tireless advocate for community participation and good governance; and

WHEREAS, Known for his generosity, ingenuity, and knowledge of government, Ron Lipton was a trusted friend and advisor who assisted others in cutting through red tape and navigating complex regulatory systems; and

WHEREAS, His ideas also had a statewide impact; he advocated for stronger ratepayer protections to truly hold utilities accountable to the public, inspiring legislation designed to benefit everyday consumers rather than large corporations; and

WHEREAS, During his retirement, Ron Lipton's drive to contribute to a better world never diminished as he continued his advocacy in a wide range of areas, from improving energy policy to the responsible management of sturgeon populations to ensure they would thrive; and

WHEREAS, Mountain Top residents, and all who knew him, will forever remember Ron Lipton as an esteemed friend whose steady judgment and moral clarity were inseparable from his joy for life and deep commitment to activism; one whose character was revealed in shared meals and music, in exploration of the Catskills' natural splendor, and in his boundless compassion for all creatures great and small, wild and domesticated; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and a compassionate heart, Ron Lipton leaves behind a legacy of service, integrity, and community-minded leadership that will long be remembered and cherished; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the life and mourn the death of Ron Lipton, recognizing his distinguished life and extending its deepest condolences to his family and friends; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Ronald F. Lipton.