

**BY:** Senator HARCKHAM

**MOURNING** the death of Joseph Burton Jr., distinguished United States Army veteran, long-serving Chief of Police, and devoted community leader

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor the lives of those distinguished individuals whose service, leadership, and devotion to their communities leave a lasting legacy upon the State of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** Joseph Burton Jr., a resident of Ossining, New York, passed away on April 6, 2026, at the age of 80, surrounded by his loving family following a courageous illness; and

**WHEREAS,** Born on January 27, 1946, in Yonkers, New York, Joseph Burton Jr. was the beloved son of Joseph and Josephine Burton, and was raised with strong values of service, discipline, and community; and

**WHEREAS,** After completing his education, including degrees from Mercy College in Criminal Justice and Human Resource Management, Joseph Burton Jr. honorably served in the United States Army from 1963 to 1966, attaining the rank of Specialist Fifth Class; and

**WHEREAS,** Following his military service, he began a remarkable 48-year career with the Village of Ossining Police Department, rising to Chief of Police in 1992, a position he held for 24 years, becoming the longest-serving chief in village history; and

**WHEREAS,** Chief Burton was widely respected for his leadership in law enforcement and his commitment to public safety, youth mentorship, and community programs, including the DARE program, the Police Athletic League, and regional police organizations, as well as his graduation from the FBI National Academy; and

**WHEREAS,** Beyond policing, he served as Chairman of the Ossining Volunteer Ambulance Corps, where he helped advance the implementation of Advanced Life Support services, and as President of the Ossining Historical Society, reflecting his deep commitment to community life and history; and

**WHEREAS,** A lifelong mentor and coach, Joseph Burton Jr. dedicated decades to Ossining youth athletics, especially girls basketball, where he took great pride in guiding student-athletes to success and multiple state championships; and

**WHEREAS,** He was known for his steady leadership, quiet strength, and deep devotion to family, faith, and community, as well as his enduring love for sports and his lifelong support of New York teams; and

**WHEREAS,** Joseph Burton Jr. is survived by his wife of 57 years,

Gabrielle; his daughter, Kristine Burton; his siblings, Warren Burton and Carol Adams; and many extended family members and friends who will forever cherish his memory; and

**WHEREAS**, Joseph Burton Jr.'s life of service, leadership, and dedication to others leaves a lasting legacy throughout the Ossining community; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Joseph Burton Jr., honoring his distinguished military service, his decades of leadership in law enforcement, and his lifelong commitment to his community; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Joseph Burton Jr.