

**BY:** Senator HARCKHAM

**MOURNING** the death of William "Bill" Russo, distinguished police detective, volunteer firefighter, and cherished family man

**WHEREAS,** It is the custom of this Legislative Body to honor and pay tribute to those distinguished individuals whose lives of service, dedication, and commitment enriched their communities and brought honor to the State of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** It is with profound sorrow and deep regret that this Legislative Body records the passing of William "Bill" Russo on January 10, 2026, in Morris, New York, at the age of 73; and

**WHEREAS,** William Russo was born on September 1, 1952, in Flushing, New York, and from an early age demonstrated the strong sense of service, compassion, and community spirit that would guide him throughout his life; and

**WHEREAS,** A proud graduate of Carmel High School, Bill Russo cultivated lifelong friendships and a steadfast commitment to helping others, qualities which became hallmarks of his character and public service; and

**WHEREAS,** Bill Russo honorably served as a Police Detective with the Kent Police Department, carrying out his duties with integrity, professionalism, and distinction until his retirement in 2000; and

**WHEREAS,** Even after retiring from law enforcement, Bill Russo continued his unwavering dedication to his community as an active and valued member of the Lake Carmel Fire Department, exemplifying the highest ideals of volunteerism and civic responsibility; and

**WHEREAS,** Family was the foundation and greatest joy of Bill Russo's life; he was the beloved father of William Russo and his wife, Alicia; James Russo and his wife, Maria; Marissa Russo and her husband, Alex; Taylor Russo-Davis and her husband, Jonathan; Tara Austin and her husband, Brad; Kevin and his wife, Andrea; and Bonnie Vierra; and

**WHEREAS,** Bill Russo took immense pride in his role as grandfather to William Davis, Rhett Davis, and Weston Russo, whose lives were enriched by his love, guidance, and devotion; and

**WHEREAS,** He is also survived by his cherished brother, Richard Russo and his wife, Lee, along with many extended family members, friends, colleagues, and neighbors who were touched by his kindness and generosity; and

**WHEREAS,** Bill Russo embraced life with enthusiasm and passion, finding enjoyment in motorcycles, trucking, sports, and above all, the laughter and companionship of his family, whose gatherings were made

brighter by his presence; and

**WHEREAS,** Bill Russo lived a life defined by compassion, courage, and selfless service, embodying the sentiment expressed by Ralph Waldo Emerson: "To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded"; and

**WHEREAS,** Through his distinguished law enforcement career, volunteer service, and enduring devotion to family and friends, William "Bill" Russo touched countless lives and leaves behind a legacy of love, honor, and commitment that will long endure; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of William "Bill" Russo, recognizing and celebrating his extraordinary life of service and devotion; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of William "Bill" Russo.