Senate Resolution No. 228

BY: Senator HARCKHAM

MOURNING the death of Robert James Linkenhoker, renowned firefighter, distinguished citizen, and devoted member of his community

WHEREAS, There are certain outstanding members of our community who, through their selfless commitment and dedication, have served to better the quality of life in our community and have had a measurable positive impact on the lives of its residents; Robert James Linkenhoker was one such individual; and

WHEREAS, It is with profound sorrow and deep regret that this Legislative Body records the passing of Robert James Linkenhoker, noting the significance of his purposeful life and accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Robert "Link" Linkenhoker, a resident of Brewster, New York, and a 26-year member of the firefighting force, died suddenly on Wednesday, October 16, 2024, just two days shy of his 54th birthday; and

WHEREAS, Born on October 18, 1970, in Carmel, New York, Robert James Linkenhoker was the son of the late James and Hazel (Sprague) Linkenhoker; and

WHEREAS, Deeply involved in his community, Robert James Linkenhoker worked for the Village of Brewster Highway Department for many years and was a life member of the Brewster Fire Department; he was also a member of the Iron Order Motorcycle Club; and

WHEREAS, As a firefighter, Robert James Linkenhoker quickly fell in love with the Rescue Company and tirelessly worked to ensure he was always prepared and highly trained in vehicle extrication; he was seen by many as the company officer's 'right-hand man' because they knew he could be relied upon to run the rescue company and their operations efficiently; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, in 2019, "Link" became one of the department's Board of Directors, where he served until the end of 2021; and

WHEREAS, Robert James Linkenhoker's greatest joy was to be out on his bike - cruising, thinking, and enjoying the scenery and solitude; he loved animals and helped frequently on Stoneleigh Farm, assisting with the care of the horses; and

WHEREAS, A gun collector who enjoyed hunting and fishing, Robert James Linkenhoker was also an avid cook who loved to eat good food, and would make regular trips to Warrensburg, New York, just to eat at Oscar's Smokehouse; and

WHEREAS, Robert James Linkenhoker was selfless in his generosity, always available to jump in and lend a hand; he will be forever remembered for the smile and wave he offered from his truck that was a

bright spot in the day for all those he knew as he drove around his beloved community; and

WHEREAS, His laughter and well-timed sense of humor created everlasting memories for all of those who knew him and those memories will continue to provide the warmth and joy he so casually instilled with his presence; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his sister, Marlene, Robert James Linkenhoker is survived by three sisters, Elizabeth (Wayne), Wendy (David), and Cynthia (Paul); and his brother, James (Brenda); and

WHEREAS, Robert James Linkenhoker's infinite selflessness and benevolence will shine on through his family's vivid and happy memories; his insight and strength will forever serve as a beacon of love, light and hope to the countless lives he touched; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, Robert James Linkenhoker leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all who were privileged to have known and loved such an amazing man; he will be deeply missed and truly merits the grateful tribute of this Legislative Body; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Robert James Linkenhoker, and to express its deepest condolences to his family; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Robert James Linkenhoker.