Assembly Resolution No. 1059

BY: M. of A. Walsh

MOURNING the death of Justice James Hughes, distinguished citizen, accomplished judge, and devoted 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 endeavor served to enhance the quality of life in their communities and this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, James Hughes, lovingly known as Jim, of Clifton Park, New York, died on Thursday, March 12, 2026, at the age of 86; and

WHEREAS, James Hughes was born on September 18, 1939, in Brooklyn, New York, to the late James and Irene Hughes; and

WHEREAS, Called to serve his country, James Hughes served in the United States Navy from 1956 to 1960 as a Radioman 2nd Class; after his honorable discharge, he continued his public service by graduating from the New York State Police Academy in 1961 and starting a career as a New York State Trooper; and

WHEREAS, Early in his 20-year career with the New York State Police, James Hughes was stationed on the eastern tip of Long Island, New York, and was transferred to Clifton Park, New York, in 1967; and

WHEREAS, While working as a New York State Trooper in Clifton Park, James Hughes simultaneously was working hard to earn his A.A.S. in Police Science from Hudson Valley Community College and his B.S. in Criminal Science from Russell Sage College, which he completed in 1973; and

WHEREAS, In 1981, James Hughes retired from the New York State Police at the rank of Zone Sergeant; and

WHEREAS, Despite his retirement, James Hughes still had a strong desire to work for his community, which led him to become elected as Clifton Park Town Judge in 1982; and

WHEREAS, After stepping into the role of town judge, James Hughes enrolled in Albany Law School in 1984 and graduated and passed the bar exam in 1987; these accomplishments led him to serve as Mechanicville City Court Judge and the Acting Washington County Family Court Judge for a time as well; and

WHEREAS, During his career as town justice, James Hughes authored a Manual for the Jury Charge of a Driving While Intoxicated Trial, which was incorporated into the Office of Judicial Support Continuing Legal Credits Program; and

WHEREAS, James Hughes served the people of Clifton Park as town

justice for over 40 years and he represented children in family court across Saratoga, Warren, and Washington counties for nearly 35 years; he

was known by all as a judge who presided over his courtroom with fairness, integrity, and a deep respect for the rule of law; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of his accomplishments, dedication, and public service, James Hughes was named the New York State Magistrate of the Year in 2024, which is the highest honor awarded by the New York State Magistrates Association; and

WHEREAS, In his free time, James Hughes enjoyed fitness, running, marathons, and working out early in the morning at his local YMCA; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his professional endeavors, James Hughes was a proud member of the Clifton Park Elks Lodge No. 2466, and he was an active participant in the Town of Clifton Park Youth Court, where he mentored local youth; and

WHEREAS, James Hughes' commitment to excellence, and his spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his career and lifetime, James Hughes earned the respect and admiration of law enforcement, attorneys, friends, family, and all who appeared before him in the courtroom; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, James Hughes leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all he served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of Justice James Hughes, distinguished citizen, accomplished judge, and devoted member of his community; and be it further

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