Assembly Resolution No. 1152

BY: M. of A. Conrad

MOURNING the death of William "Bill" Gosch, distinguished citizen, veteran, 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, William "Bill" Gosch of North Tonawanda, New York, died on Sunday, March 29, 2026, at the age of 102; and

WHEREAS, Born on December 8, 1923, William Gosch was a lifelong resident of North Tonawanda and graduated from North Tonawanda High School in 1942; and

WHEREAS, Filled with a strong desire to serve his Nation, William Gosch joined the United States Marine Corps in December of 1942; he served proudly in the Pacific Theatre as a PFC, and was a member of the 2nd Raider Battalion, known as the elite Carlson's Raiders; and

WHEREAS, While serving, William Gosch participated in four major combat operations, including Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Guam, and Okinawa; and

WHEREAS, On his 100th birthday, William Gosch received eight medals that he earned but was never physically given, including the Navy-Marine Presidential Unit Commendation Ribbon, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, Navy-Marine Combat Action Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with 4 Bronze Stars, WWII Victory Medal, WWII Honorable Discharge Button, and Marine Corps Rifle Marksman Badge; and

WHEREAS, After returning from the war, William Gosch attended Niagara University on a football scholarship, and he graduated in June of 1950; that same year, William Gosch married his loving wife, Lois Kothan, and together they shared 72 memorable years of marriage until her death in 2022; and

WHEREAS, Together, William Gosch and his wife, Lois Kothan, shared the joy of raising their four beloved children, Phyllis, Susan, Christine, and Matthew; and

WHEREAS, William Gosch distinguished himself in his profession and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community; and

WHEREAS, William Gosch spent his professional career working for Johns-Mansville, serving as general manager of Richardson Boat Company, and managing the North Tonawanda Housing Authority; and

WHEREAS, After retiring, William Gosch spent 26 years wintering in Oahu, Hawaii, where he and his wife operated a costume jewelry business; and

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

WHEREAS, As a proud community member who was always willing to help his community, William Gosch was appointed to serve as an Interim 2nd Ward Alderman for the North Tonawanda Common Council in 2020 at the age of 97; and

WHEREAS, William Gosch valued community, conversation, and the simple joys of everyday life; known as the "Original Mr. Fix-It" to many, William Gosch was a popular figure in North Tonawanda, often visiting the North Tonawanda City Market and participating in activities and celebrations throughout his cherished hometown; and

WHEREAS, Those who had the privilege of knowing William Gosch will remember his warm smiles, friendly conversations, memorable stories, and immense North Tonawanda pride; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, William Gosch 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 William "Bill" Gosch, distinguished citizen, veteran, 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 William "Bill" Gosch.