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STATE OF NEW YORK

LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY

BUFFALO, N.Y., DECEMBER 20, 2018 A.D.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION IN REMEMBRANCE OF SENATOR WALTER J. FLOSS JR.

WHEREAS, Almighty God, in His infinite wisdom, on December 8, 2018, removed from our midst Honorable Walter J. Floss Jr., in whose death we have lost a true leader, a valued and respected citizen, and whose family has lost a kind and devoted member; and

WHEREAS, Honorable Walter J. Floss Jr., a pillar of the Clarence and Western New York community, was born in Buffalo on February 13, 1923, the first child and only son of insurance agent Walter J. Floss Sr. and Laura Lillis Floss, and was the brother of Mary P., Joan L., Jean M., Nancy and Dolores Floss; and

WHEREAS, A graduate of Public School 74, Buffalo's Technical High School, Honorable Walter J. Floss Jr. enlisted in the Naval Reserve on his 17th birthday in 1940, following his father, who fought in World War I, and his grandfather, who fought for the Union during the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, Honorable Walter J. Floss Jr. trained as a flight engineer, was injured in December 1941 when a tractor crushed his foot, but remained in service where he spent 46 months overseas, before being honorably discharged in October 1945; and

WHEREAS, Honorable Walter J. Floss Jr. opened Floss Insurance Agency on Transit Road in Clarence in 1945, having studied business administration at Millard Fillmore College of the University at Buffalo; and

WHEREAS, On July 13, 1946, Honorable Walter J. Floss Jr. and Grayce H. Thornberry married at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Buffalo; and

WHEREAS, Honorable Walter J. Floss Jr. was elected to the Clarence Town Council in 1962, after serving on the town's Planning Board and as a constable; and

WHEREAS, In 1968, Honorable Walter J. Floss Jr. was elected to the 16th District of the Erie County Legislature; in 1970, he was named chairman of the newly created Erie County Industrial Development Agency, serving in that post for 18 months; and in 1974, he was named a VIP by the Amherst Chamber of Commerce for his work as director and building chairman for Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital; and

WHEREAS, In 1978, Honorable Walter J. Floss Jr. was elected a state senator representing the 59th District, later the 60th District, where in 1979, he helped create the senate subcommittee on small business concerns, which became part of the Senate Commerce Committee in 1985; and

WHEREAS, Senator Walter J. Floss Jr. was the first chairman of the N.Y.S. Senate's Standing Committee on Commerce, Economic Development and Small Business; and where during his 10 years in the state senate, he was chairman of the majority task force on defense spending in the state and served on many task forces, legislative commissions and senate standing committees, mostly focusing on financial and business topics; and

WHEREAS, Senator Walter J. Floss Jr. earned the respect of his peers and had a reputation as a committed, dedicated and hard-working representative who was moreover an outspoken champion of small business, lower taxes and less government; and

WHEREAS, In retirement, Senator Walter J. Floss Jr. focused on travel with his wife and family events; and where Mrs. Floss died January 9, 2004, after 57 years of marriage; and

WHEREAS, Senator Walter J. Floss Jr. was an exempt member and past treasurer of the East Amherst Fire Department; a charter member, past grand knight and past district deputy of the Holy Name Council 3974 of the Knights of Columbus; a former member of the Ignatius Retreat League; and a member and past commander of the Swiftwater Power Squadron; and

WHEREAS, Senator Walter J. Floss Jr. belonged to the Aero Club; Buffalo Yacht Club; Veterans of Foreign Wars and Chapter 120 of the Disabled American Veterans; the Clarence Rotary Club; the United States Chamber of Commerce; the Buffalo, Amherst and Clarence chambers of commerce; and was the longest-tenured member of the Alfred J. Jurek American Legion Post; and

WHEREAS, Senator Walter J. Floss Jr. is survived by five sons, John J., Robert, Walter III, James and Joseph; five daughters, Therese, Margaret Kurtz, Kathleen Perry, Judy Dinse and Mary Smith; 30 grandchildren; and 38 great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Senator Walter J. Floss Jr., having been a pillar of the community and his family, entered into rest on December 8, 2018, at the age of 95.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby mourn the passing of Honorable Walter J. Floss Jr., and pause in its deliberations on December 20, 2018 to honor and celebrate the life of Senator Walter J. Floss Jr., and offer our thoughts, prayers and deepest sympathy to his family, friends, and all who knew him.

PETER J. SAVAGE III

*Chairman of the
Erie County Legislature*

JOSEPH C. LORIGO

*Minority Leader of the
Erie County Legislature*

APRIL N.M. BASKIN

*Majority Leader of the
Erie County Legislature*

EDWARD A. RATH, III

Erie County Legislator

BARBARA MILLER-WILLIAMS

Erie County Legislator

JOHN J. MILLS

Erie County Legislator

THOMAS A. LOUGHRAN

Erie County Legislator

KEVIN R. HARDWICK

Erie County Legislator

PATRICK B. BURKE

Erie County Legislator

LYNNE M. DIXON

Erie County Legislator

JOHN BRUSO

Erie County Legislator

ROBERT M. GRABER

Clerk of the Erie County Legislature