

STATE OF NEW YORK  
LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY  
BUFFALO, NY, JULY 8, 2021

*In Remembrance of Dr. Herschel J. Balsom*

**WHEREAS**, Almighty God, in His infinite wisdom, on July 3, 2021, removed from our midst *Dr. Herschel J. Balsom* in whose death we have lost a loving husband, father, valued and respected citizen, prominent leader, and whose family has lost a kind and devoted member; and

**WHEREAS**, born in Buffalo, Dr. Balsom was a 1948 graduate of Lafayette High School and earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University at Buffalo; and

**WHEREAS**, Herschel received his doctorate from the College of Optometry at Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon, near Portland; and

**WHEREAS**, he served twice in the Navy, where during the Korean War he was a medic aboard a destroyer-class ship; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Balsom practiced for many years at the Optique in Georgetown Square in Amherst; and

**WHEREAS**, he also worked as an optometrist at the former GEX store in Cheektowaga and the Dunkirk Optometric Center; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Balsom proudly served as a member of Temple Beth Tzedek and the Jewish Discovery Center, and he also enjoyed taking cruises and cheering for the Bills and Sabres; and

**WHEREAS**, his wife of 52 years, the former Beverly Wolffe, a founding member of the Amherst Skating Club and a figure-skating judge, died in 2006; and

**WHEREAS**, survivors also include two sons, James and Michael; a stepson, David Brownstein; two step-daughters, Lisa Witkin and Rachel Weiss; and four grandchildren; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Balsom's older brother, Dr. Melvin Balsom, who died in 2014, also was an optometrist; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor and pay tribute to the life of *Dr. Herschel J. Balsom*, whose lifelong dedication to God, family, healthcare and community are an inspiration to be admired, emulated and honored.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby mourn the passing of *Dr. Herschel J. Balsom* and pause in its deliberations to recognize his praiseworthy life, his love of family and for his commitment to the betterment of our community and our public service departments; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Erie County Legislature express its sympathy and condolences to the Balsom family and to Herschel's many friends and colleagues, knowing full well that he has received his eternal and glorified reward in Heaven, having heard the consoling words of the Master, "*Well done, thou good and faithful servant.*"

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**Hon. Jeanne M. Vinal**  
*Erie County Legislator, 5<sup>th</sup> District*

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**Robert M. Graber**  
*Clerk of the Erie County Legislature*