

STATE OF NEW YORK
LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY
BUFFALO, NY, AUGUST 23, 2021

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In Remembrance of Mark E. Hamister

WHEREAS, Almighty God, in His infinite wisdom, on August 20, 2021, removed from our midst *Mark E. Hamister*, in whose death we have lost a loving father, grandfather, valued and respected citizen and whose family has lost a leader, and a kind and devoted member; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hamister, born in Kenmore, was a life-long Western New Yorker and was a key player in real estate and development; and

WHEREAS, Mark jumped into the real estate scene with his purchase of an assisted living facility in 1977; and

WHEREAS, the beginning of his first facility led to the purchase of others, and his company grew into National Health Care Affiliates, which had nearly 40 businesses in six states and annual sales exceeding \$100 million; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hammister's company specialized in hotels and assisted living residences and their 19 holdings included some of Western New York's well-known buildings including: the Hilton Garden Inn in downtown Buffalo, Hyatt Place in Niagara Falls, Doubletree Inn in Jamestown, Brompton Heights senior living residence in Williamsville and Orchard Heights senior living in Orchard Park; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, Mark and his son also have taken a lead role in the transfer of Westwood Country Club to the Town of Amherst in exchange for launching \$300 million in proposed private and public development on 38 acres of town-owned sports fields that include a portion of the Audubon Golf Course; and

WHEREAS, Mark focused on great service and high rewards for all constituencies; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hamister was known by many to be very generous, humble, charitable, and a "consummate businessman" who had a quiet way of supporting issues and making things happen; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hamister received numerous public awards, including the Buffalo Business First Lifetime Achievement Award, Junior Achievement Hall of Fame Laureate, and Entrepreneur of the Year for New York State; and

WHEREAS, he was a member or chairman of several boards in Western New York and Florida, including those at the Buffalo Niagara Partnership, the UB Foundation, the Miami Transplant Institute, Buffalo Public Schools Foundation, the Empire State Development Corp., the Rochester Institute of Technology and Shea's Performing Arts Center; and

WHEREAS, Mark's legacy will continue through loved ones including his children; Daniel (Angela) and Kathryn Hamister; four grandchildren, dear brother of Robert (Lynn) Hamister, Brian (Nancy) Hamister; brother-in-law of Thomas (Sandy) White, MD and John White, Mary (Jeffrey, Esq.) Buckley, Esq., Deborah (Richard) Rosenberry and Brenda White; and

WHEREAS, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor and pay tribute to the life of **Mark E. Hamister**, whose lifelong dedication to family, philanthropy and loving his 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 **Mark E. Hamister** 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 be it further

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature express its sympathy and condolences to the Hamister family and to Mark'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.*"

Hon. Lisa M. Chimera
Erie County Legislator, 3rd District

Hon. Jeanne M. Vinal
Erie County Legislator, 5th District