

STATE OF NEW YORK
LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY
BUFFALO, N.Y., OCTOBER 7, 2021 A.D.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT *at a regular session of the Legislature of Erie County held in the County Hall, in the City of Buffalo, on the 7th day of October, 2021 a resolution was adopted, of which the following is a true copy:*

Honoring Mercy Flight on its 40th Anniversary

WHEREAS, *the Erie County Legislature seeks to honor institutions of Erie County that enhance the quality of life in the community through their efforts; and*

WHEREAS, *Mercy Flight was born out of the vision of Douglas H. Baker in 1981, owner of LaSalle Ambulance who had a desire to reach more patients in need. Partnering with like-minded visionaries, Sister Sheila Marie Walsh, Dr. Matthew Burke, and Dr. James Ehinger, Mercy Flight was established as the pioneer air-medical service in New York and one of the first of its kind in the United States; and*

WHEREAS, *Mercy Flight is an independent, not-for-profit provider of air medical transport and supporting services providing rapid, safe, and cost-effective delivery of expert emergency response teams; and*

WHEREAS, *Mercy Flight is headquartered in Buffalo, New York with strategically placed bases throughout the Western New York area serving patients from Niagara Falls to Rochester to Northwestern Pennsylvania and beyond; and*

WHEREAS, *Mercy Flight credits its success to local fire, police, and emergency service partnerships; and*

WHEREAS, *Mercy Flight's average cost per mission is \$1,420 but is committed to perform its services without regard to its patient's ability to pay, which, as a result, has led the organization to forgive more than \$1.6 million of patient debt in just the last year; and*

WHEREAS, *Mercy Flight is guided by principles including, being focused on what is most beneficial for the patient, clinical excellence, safety, readiness, integrity and honesty, community partnership, and fiduciary obligation among others.*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, *the Erie County Legislature pauses in its deliberations to honor and recognize Mercy Flight as it celebrates forty years of life-saving medical transport service to the Western New York Community.*

JOHN J. MILLS
Erie County Legislator – 11th District