

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 40<sup>th</sup> 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.

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JOHN J. MILLS  
Erie County Legislator – 11<sup>th</sup> District