

FD-350 (Rev. 11-19-87)

STATE OF NEW YORK
LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY
BUFFALO, NY, JANUARY 14, 2021

In Remembrance of Joseph F. Crangle
Longtime Chairman of the Erie County Democratic Committee

WHEREAS, Almighty God, in His infinite wisdom, on January 12, 2021, removed from our midst *Joseph F. Crangle* in whose death we have lost a loving father, grandfather, valued and respected citizen, civic leader, prominent leader, and whose family has lost a leader, and a kind and devoted member; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Crangle grew up in the City of Buffalo's Kensington-Bailey neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, he was a member of the first graduating class of Bishop Timon High School, where he was elected Diocesan and then National President of the Catholic Youth Council, before going on to Canisius College, where he was a cheerleader for the Golden Griffins basketball team; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Crangle got his first taste of politics at Canisius while successfully running for President of the Student Council; and

WHEREAS, after he graduated from Canisius in 1955 and from the SUNY Buffalo Law School in 1959, he joined the staff of then-Erie County Democratic Committee Chairman Peter J. Crotty and would not leave Democratic Headquarters for another 29 years; and

WHEREAS, due to his success as Erie County Chairman, Mr. Crangle also was selected as Chair of the New York State Democratic Committee and served from 1971-1974 and was a major player in national Democratic politics, working with and helping boost the candidacies of prominent national and state elected officials as a member of the Democratic National Committee from 1972 to 1992; and

WHEREAS, as many local elected officials and Democratic Party staffers have noted in recent days, Mr. Crangle was a formative figure and mentor to several generations of Erie County politicians and government officials, helping to start and promote their careers in public service; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Crangle served as Chair of the Erie County Water Authority from 1987 to 1996 and served as counsel to the Seneca Nation of Indians for several years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Crangle worked at the law firm of Colucci and Gallaher from 1963 until his retirement in 2011, and also was special counsel to the Niagara Falls Bridge Commission from 1990 to 1996; and

WHEREAS, in addition to all of Crangle exceptional civic accolades, he also served our country as a Captain during a career in the Army Reserve for 10 years; and

WHEREAS, Crangle received many awards from his alma maters, including the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Canisius in 1990, the John Timon Society Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2000, the Distinguished Alumni Award for Public Service from SUNY Buffalo Law School in 2001 and became a member of the Jesuit National Honor Society in 1955; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Crangle was a member of the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo and served on the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Crangle is survived by four daughters, Mary Stepanik, Katie Crangle, Brigid Crangle, and Betsy Leberer; one son, Joseph, and nine grandchildren, as well as his politically-active nephews, John Crangle, the Chair of the Town of Tonawanda Democratic Committee and former Acting Erie County Clerk, and Daniel Crangle, former Town of Tonawanda Councilmember; and

WHEREAS, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor and pay tribute to the life of **Joseph F. Crangle**, whose lifelong dedication to God, family, civic initiatives 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 **Joseph F. Crangle** and pause in its deliberations to recognize his praiseworthy life, his love of family and for his commitment to the betterment of our community, our state and our nation; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature express its sympathy and condolences to the Crangle family and to Joseph'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. April N.M. Baskin
Chair of the Legislature
Erie County Legislator, 2nd District

Hon. Timothy J. Meyers
Majority Leader
Erie County Legislator, 7th District

Hon. Howard J. Johnson Jr.
Erie County Legislator, 1st District

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

Hon. Kevin R. Hardwick
Erie County Legislator, 4th District

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

Hon. John J. Gilmour
Erie County Legislator, 9th District

Robert M. Graber
Clerk of the Erie County Legislature