

By Legislators Yudelson and Brew

Intro. No. ____

RESOLUTION NO. ____ OF 2024

IN MEMORIAM

EXPRESSING REGRET OF THE MONROE COUNTY LEGISLATURE ON THE RECENT PASSING OF FORMER MONROE COUNTY LEGISLATURE PRESIDENT AND LEGISLATOR ARNOLD J. ECKERT

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Monroe County Legislature hereby expresses its deepest sympathy at the recent passing of former Monroe County Legislature President and Legislator Arnold "Arnie" J. Eckert; and

WHEREAS, President Eckert passed away peacefully, surrounded by loved ones, on April 4, 2024, at the age of 94; and

WHEREAS, Arnold J. Eckert was born on November 9, 1929 in Rochester, New York, the son of Arnold and Margaret Eckert, and grew up at the family's home on Keeler Street. As a teenager, Arnie became a licensed pilot and photographer. He graduated from Edison Tech High School in 1947 and subsequently attended the Rochester Business Institute, prior to beginning his successful private sector career in banking, retiring as a Vice President at Chase Lincoln. He additionally served in the National Guard, rising to the rank of 1st Lieutenant and was a founding parishioner of Christ the King parish in Irondequoit; and

WHEREAS, President Eckert first entered politics in 1978, after expressing an interest in filling a vacancy to represent his neighbors in the Town of Irondequoit on the Monroe County Legislature. He earned the appointment and was elected six times as Legislator for the 17th District, serving 17 years through 1995. Prior to being elected President, Arnie served a number of important roles in the Legislature including as Chair of the Public Safety Committee (1980) for one year, Chair and later Ranking Member of the powerful Ways and Means Committee (1981) for 8 years and Republican Caucus Leader (1989) for 4 years. Following the 1992 Election, in which Republicans won control of the County Legislature, he was elected to serve as President of the Legislature, from 1993 until his retirement on December 31, 1995; and

WHEREAS, Arnie was well known in our community as a passionate public servant. He was instrumental in the establishment of the consolidated 911 system in Monroe County and served forty years on its operating practices board, including a majority of those as its Chair. Monroe County employees both past and present have Arnie to thank for instituting their Deferred Compensation Plan and guiding its investment stewardship as its Chair, for many years. Threats of violence and even a pipe bomb scare at his home did not discourage his successful advocacy for a population management program that reduced vehicular collisions involving deer in Irondequoit. A firm believer in the legislature's oversight role, Arnie restored the county's internal audit function and carved out a seat for the President of the Legislature on the MCC Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, those who served with or were represented by Arnie knew him as a fiscally conservative, accessible and conscientious public official. He did his homework, asked the tough questions and was knowledgeable on each matter placed before the Legislature, both big and small. He had the courage of his convictions. While you may not have always agreed with Arnie, you always knew where he stood; and

WHEREAS, Arnie is survived by his beloved bride of 72 years "Sally" Frances (Stock); his children, David (Seta Hampar), Marianne (Robert) DeLaura, Michael, James (Laurie Podsiadly), John, Ellen (Bill) Hughes, Catherine (John) Betzig; grandchildren, Katie (Rob), Jessica, Lindsey (Alex), Matthew, Clare (Scott), Emma (Rich), Sam (Alina), Sarah (Bryan), Kristen (Matt), Lauren, Jake (Elizabeth), Rac, William, Mary, Emily; great-grandchildren, Gia, Cecilia, Luca, Max, Ben, Joy, Leo, Jane and Norah; sister-in-law, Marie Moriarty; nieces and nephews. He will be missed by all who knew, respected and admired him.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature is hereby requested to forward a copy of this resolution to the bereaved family.

This resolution was adopted unanimously with each legislator rising in his or her place for a moment of silence.