

## 2011-K257

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 60th Anniversary of Guptill's Arena, Latham, New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize the milestones of those exceptional recreational facilities which have positively impacted their communities and are a crucial element in the economy of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of Guptill's Arena, Latham, New York; and

WHEREAS, For over six decades, Guptill's Arena has provided Capital District residents with a place to have fun, get some exercise, enjoy some old-fashioned ice cream, and take in a little piece of Americana; and

WHEREAS, Pearly Guptill and his family relocated to the Capital Region from Maine in the 1930s due to the Great Depression; with foresight enough to recognize an area that would grow and prosper, the family settled in Boght Corners, New York; and

WHEREAS, Early on, this pioneering family contributed much to the expansion of their community; they owned a gas station, built roads, and dug many cellars for homes within the town; the grandson of Pearly Guptill, Charles Guptill, is credited with being one of the first citizens to help put the hamlet of Latham on the map; and

WHEREAS, In the 1940s, Charles Guptill developed debilitating rheumatism that rendered him unable to walk; as part of his rehabilitative therapy he began to roller skate and slowly regained his ability; subsequently, he decided to build a roller skating rink for his community; and

WHEREAS, The construction of Guptill's Arena began in 1946, on a

Guptill family lot located on Wade Road; wood from the family's farm was used to build the arena and provided all the lumber for the 400,000-board oak arena floor; the production was completed on February 14, 1951, and Guptill's Arena was officially open for business; and

WHEREAS, The massive arena's main floor is one-acre of space and consists of the practice rink, the baby rink and the main rink, as well as private rooms for birthday parties and other celebrations; attached to the arena is the Coney Express, which serves ice cream and other treats to its many patrons; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, the members of the Guptill family have dedicated themselves to keeping alive the traditional look and feel of this treasured piece of Americana; today, Guptill's Arena still houses all of the same classic cars and original decor, as well as its original stage, which hosted many acts during the 1950s; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable landmark gained global recognition in the 1970s, being awarded the honor of the largest skating rink in the world by the GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS; and

WHEREAS, Throughout its history, Guptill's Arena has persevered, remaining untouched in an ever-changing society and weathering over half-a-century of economic ups and downs; acting as a piece of nostalgia for the Town of Colonie, this beloved landmark has been a source of fun and cherished memories for generations of Capital District families and residents; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is proud to honor and commend the members, past and present, of the Guptill family who have labored so conscientiously to secure and improve the quality of life for the residents and community they serve, noting the significance of their unrelenting efforts to build a commonality of interest and pride of cooperative achievement, inherent in the values of community and family life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to

commemorate the 60th Anniversary of Guptill's Arena, Latham, New York;  
and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Skip Guptill, Guptill's Arena, Latham, New York.