

2011-K345

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the untimely death of former Buffalo Sabres professional hockey player Richard Lionel (Rick) Martin, distinguished athlete and citizen, and devoted member of his community

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize those individuals within our midst who have contributed greatly to the quality of our lives by a commitment to excellence and whose actions and accomplishments have served to honor and benefit the people of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to also pay tribute to outstanding athletes who distinguished themselves through their exceptional performance, and attained unprecedented success and the highest level of personal achievement; and

WHEREAS, It is also the custom of this Legislative Body to acknowledge and pay tribute to remarkable individuals whose lifework and civic endeavor served to enhance the quality of life in their communities and the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, A resident of Akron, New York, former Buffalo Sabres professional hockey player Richard Lionel (Rick) Martin tragically died on March 13, 2011, at the age of 59; and

WHEREAS, Born on July 26, 1951, in Verdun, Quebec, Canada, Rick Martin was a member of the celebrated "French Connection" line of the Buffalo Sabres, one of the most prolific scoring lines in the National Hockey League in the 1970s; known also as "Rico," he was outwardly the happiest member of Buffalo's French Connection; and

WHEREAS, Playing left wing for the Sabres, the left-handed Rick Martin possessed a powerful and accurate slap shot and wrist shot; he was the Sabres' career leader in hat tricks, scoring three or more goals in a game 21 times; and

WHEREAS, Selected by Buffalo fifth over all in the 1971 amateur draft, Rick Martin made an instant impact in the National Hockey League, scoring a rookie record of 44 goals in the 1971-72 season; he scored 52 goals in consecutive seasons beginning in 1973-74; in 1975, as part of the French Connection, he led Buffalo to the Stanley Cup finals against the Philadelphia Flyers; and

WHEREAS, Traded to the Los Angeles Kings in 1981, Rick Martin retired due to a knee injury after two more seasons; in his 685 game NHL career, he scored 384 goals and 701 points; he played in seven All-Star games; and

WHEREAS, In 1995, the Buffalo Sabres honored Rick Martin's career by retiring his Number 7 jersey; and

WHEREAS, Survived by his wife, Mikey, and by his two sons, Corey and Josh, Rick Martin leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all he entertained, thrilled, served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the untimely death of former Buffalo Sabres professional hockey player Richard Lionel (Rick) Martin, distinguished athlete and citizen, and devoted member of his community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Richard Lionel (Rick) Martin.