

2011-J2576

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Joseph P. Yozzo upon the occasion of being inducted into the Rome Arts Hall of Fame on June 10, 2011

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to call attention to individuals and organizations that devote their time and energies to the cultural enrichment of the Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Joseph P. Yozzo upon the occasion of being inducted into the Rome Arts Hall of Fame at its Annual Induction Ceremony at the Capitol Theatre, in Rome, New York, on June 10, 2011; and

WHEREAS, The Rome Arts Hall of Fame was created in 2005, and is housed in the mezzanine foyer of the Capitol; each year, nominations are collected from community members and arts organizations, and a committee made up of individuals from Rome's arts community chooses inductees; and

WHEREAS, Born in Rome, New York, Joseph P. Yozzo began performing music in 1933; his first teacher was the legendary Enstacio Pinti, director of the Rome White Band; initially playing tuba, in 1939, he switched to the string bass; and

WHEREAS, In 1943, Joseph P. Yozzo joined the United States Armed Services; after 16 weeks of basic training at Camp Wheller, Georgia, he was shipped to the Russell Island, Guadal Canal where he spent five months in combat duty before being selected by the 230th Army Ground Force Band; and

WHEREAS, Joseph P. Yozzo played bass with Johnny Salerno's band for 36 years, and eventually performed with the Sal Alberico Band, and the No Name Band; and

WHEREAS, Joseph P. Yozzo's gigs for Special Services included playing for service shows featuring Bob Hope, Ginger Rogers, Lana Turner, Frances Langford, Jerry Colonna, and Eddie "Rochester" Anderson, and played for 26 shows with Jack Benny; and

WHEREAS, In his two years and 10 months with the Army Band, Joseph P. Yozzo also sat in with such bands as Glenn Miller, Harry James, Tommy Dorsey, Jimmy Dorsey, Frankie Carl, and Les Brown; and

WHEREAS, Joseph P. Yozzo continued to perform after his discharge from the military until 1960, when, shattered by the loss of his son, he put down his string bass; urged on by fellow legendary musicians, he began performing again; and

WHEREAS, It is most fitting that we take time to celebrate the arts of our Nation, to honor our artists, and to express our appreciation to everyone who patronizes the arts; and as we celebrate the arts, we celebrate and give thanks to our American freedom, the only atmosphere in which artists can truly create and in which art is truly the expression of the soul; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED. That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Joseph P. Yozzo upon the occasion of being inducted into the Rome Arts Hall of Fame on June 10, 2011; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Joseph P. Yozzo.