

2011-K1562

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Joe Donato posthumously for his extraordinary athletic achievements upon the occasion of his induction into the Schenectady City School District Athletic Hall of Fame

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

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and fully in accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Joe Donato posthumously for his extraordinary athletic achievements upon the occasion of his induction into the Schenectady City School District Athletic Hall of Fame, to be celebrated at the Annual Schenectady City School District Athletic Hall of Fame and Reunion Dinner on Monday, September 10, 2012, at Proctor's Theatre in Schenectady, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Schenectady City School District Athletic Hall of Fame was established in 1998 to honor those individuals who have made significant contributions to the history and tradition of sports in the Schenectady City School District; and

WHEREAS, Joe Donato attended Mont Pleasant High School and enlisted in the United States Navy during World War II; he was a leader in the bowling industry as a bowler, mentor, league organizer, and tournament director and proprietor; and

WHEREAS, Selected 53rd on THE GAZETTE'S 1994 list of top 100 Capital Region sports figures of the previous 100 years (top bowler on the list), Joe Donato was designated as the Mont Pleasant Athletic Club Athlete of the Year in 1959 being the first bowler selected; and

WHEREAS, Joe Donato was a charter member of the Professional Bowlers Association who bowled several 300 games in PBA events, including two

4th place finishes in PBA Tourneys which were the 1959 Empire State Open and the 1962 Chicago PBA Open; he set world records for four game match in 1956, and six game match in 1961; and

WHEREAS, Selected as a Top 10 United States Bowler in 1961 and a member of the 1962 National Bowling League, Joe Donato was one of the top 24 bowlers in the PBA in 1962; he made several appearances on ABC's "Make that Spare" becoming the 1st bowler to make all five spares and he also made nine consecutive spares to win a considerable purse; and WHEREAS, Being the first New York State Bowler to be signed to the AMF Advisory Staff of Champions, Joe Donato conducted clinics and exhibitions throughout the United States with Dick Weber and Carmen Salvino; he was a member of the first class of the Schenectady Bowling Association Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Appearing over 50 times on "TV Tournament Time", Joe Donato was the first to bowl a 300 game on the show; he originated and hosted the annual Elmer Ciccone Memorial Pro-Am, inviting 14 top touring PBA members each year; and

WHEREAS, Creator of the "Great, Greater, Greatest Tournament" that benefited local charities, Joe Donato formed the Capital District All-Star & Schenectady Major Leagues and for 40 years was the proprietor of Donato's Sportsman's Bowl; he managed Turnpike Lanes (Town & Country), Mont Pleasant Lanes, Scotia Lanes and Holiday Bowl in Santa Ana, California; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious occasion presents a unique opportunity for this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to Joe Donato; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is moved to honor Joe Donato posthumously for his extraordinary athletic accomplishments which are a tribute to his skill, dedication and commitment; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations with praise and pride to honor Joe Donato posthumously for his extraordinary athletic achievements upon the occasion of his induction into the Sche-

nectady City School District Athletic Hall of Fame; and be it further
RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Joe Donato.