

2015-J216

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Publicity Director John Manzi upon the occasion of his retirement after 40 years of distinguished service to Monticello Raceway

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body seeks to acknowledge those individuals whose professional lives and civic endeavors serve to enhance the stature of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Publicity Director John Manzi upon the occasion of his retirement after 40 years of distinguished service to Monticello Raceway; he officially retired on Friday, December 19, 2014; and

WHEREAS, John Manzi began his illustrious career in harness racing as a young man in 1958 when he started working as a trainer in his family's stables; he subsequently won seven out of his first eight races and continued on to great success; and

WHEREAS, After competing all over the East Coast for many years, John Manzi returned home to Monticello Raceway in 1974; he became the Assistant to the Racing Secretary, and two years later, was assigned to Monticello Raceway's Office of Publicity and Public Relations; and

WHEREAS, In 1980, this esteemed man was promoted to Publicity Director, the position he would occupy for the next 40 years, serving with loyalty, honor and distinction; and

WHEREAS, John Manzi built an impressive legacy at Monticello Raceway, raising the profile of the race track through numerous promotional events including a contest between a New York Giants Football Player and "the losingest horse in the world"; and

WHEREAS, A great ambassador and tireless champion for the sport of harness racing, John Manzi has helped many of its various organizations

through his benevolent efforts; he has worked diligently to raise funds for the Harness Racing Museum and Hall of Fame, the Goshen Historic Track, the Saratoga Harness Hall of Fame, the Standardbred Retirement Fund, and the Harness Horse Youth Foundation; and

WHEREAS, In addition, John Manzi has been a driving force in the Monticello-Goshen Chapter of the United States Harness Writers Association (USHWA), leading its annual banquet held to honor local horsemen, with proceeds benefitting worthwhile causes throughout the year; and WHEREAS, John Manzi, a vital part of numerous harness racing organizations, is a former National President of both USHWA and the Harness Publicist Association; he has done publicity for the New York Sires Stakes, the Billings Amateur Driving Series and the North American Amateur Drivers Association; and

WHEREAS, John Manzi has been the recipient of numerous awards and accolades during his remarkable career, including the Proximity Award from USHWA, the Pinnacle Award from the Harness Racing Museum and Hall of Fame, the Appreciation Award from Harness Horsemen International, and the Laurel Award from New York City USHWA; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, John Manzi is a member of the Communicator's Hall of Fame in Goshen and was named USHWA's Person of the Year in 1992; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the quality of life in their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to the maintenance of high standards in their profession, certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Publicity Director John Manzi upon the occasion of his retire-

ment after 40 years of distinguished service to Monticello Raceway; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be tran-

mitted to John Manzi.