

2015-J664

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating the 1969 SUNY Orange Cross Country Team upon the occasion of their induction into the 2014 SUNY Orange Colt Athletic Hall of Fame

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor those individuals and teams whose exceptional athletic prowess leaves an enduring legacy in their communities; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate the 1969 SUNY Orange Cross Country Team upon the occasion of their induction into the 2014 SUNY Orange Colt Athletic Hall of Fame, which was celebrated at a ceremony on Saturday, November 8, 2014, at Kuhl's Highland House, Middletown, New York; and

WHEREAS, The SUNY Orange Colt Athletic Hall of Fame recognizes those individuals, who, through outstanding achievement in athletics or service, have made lasting contributions to its sports program and the overall community; and

WHEREAS, The 1969 SUNY Orange Cross Country Team, under the direction of Head Coach Gary Dross, accomplished an undefeated record of 12-0 and became the College's first cross country team to win the Mid-Hudson Conference Championship; and

WHEREAS, These exceptional athletes also placed first in the two-year division at the Albany Invitational and were the NJCAA Region XV Cross Country Champion, before finishing 14th at the National Championship; and

WHEREAS, Bill Wilbur was the team's leading runner in 1969, finishing as the first Colt across the line in 15 of the team's 16 races that fall; he was victorious in 11 dual meet races and also won the Albany Invitational, Mid-Hudson Conference Title and the Region XV championship, while setting or re-setting 12 course and meet records; and

WHEREAS, Helping give the Colts a dominating one-two punch was Gerry Hanlon, who was beaten by just one opponent, other than Wilbur, in the 12 dual meets; he also finished third at the regional meet and second at the Albany Invitational; furthermore, he set a course record during his

first place finish at Suffolk; and

WHEREAS, Demonstrating remarkable depth throughout the year, the SUNY Orange Cross Country Team received key contributions from Jim Distefano, Rick Cole, Gary Cole, Ron Beagal, George Giveans, Steve Bryk, John Ryan, and Team Captain John Kennedy; several players earned both All-Conference and All-Region accolades, and Rick Cole and George Giveans were named All-Conference and All-Region respectively; and

WHEREAS, Athletes such as the members of the 1969 SUNY Orange Cross Country Team provide a tremendous service to the future of our State and Nation, inspiring generations of student-athletes in their athletic journeys and ensuring their success in their future years; and

WHEREAS, The 1969 SUNY Orange Cross Country Team has clearly been an inspiration to the youth of SUNY Orange, as well as to the community-at-large, and accordingly merits recognition and applause for their impressive dedication to others; and

WHEREAS, Sports competition instills the values of teamwork, pride and accomplishment, and the 1969 SUNY Orange Cross Country Team has clearly made a contribution to the spirit of excellence which is a tradition of their school; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate the 1969 SUNY Orange Cross Country Team upon the occasion of their induction into the 2014 SUNY Orange Colt Athletic Hall of Fame; and BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the 1969 SUNY Orange Cross Country Team.