

2015-J2868

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating the 2015 inductees of the Rome Sports Hall of Fame

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor those individuals 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 2015 inductees of the Rome Sports Hall of Fame to be celebrated at its 39th Annual Induction and Awards dinner on Sunday, July 26, 2015, at the Beeches Inn and Conference Center, Rome, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Rome Sports Hall of Fame 2015 inductees include: Rob Manfred, Jacqueline Izzo, Peter Mastracco, Raymond Tarkowski, Anne Marie Zakala and Richard Zigrino; and

WHEREAS, A 1976 graduate of Rome Free Academy (RFA), Rob Manfred attended Le Moyne College and Cornell University before receiving his law degree from Harvard Law School in 1983; he began his first job in Major League Baseball in the late 1980s, as an outside counsel in labor negotiations; and

WHEREAS, During his illustrious career, Rob Manfred served as Executive Vice President for Labor Relations and Human Resources, and ably served as lead negotiator for the last three baseball labor contracts and all drug agreements since 2002; he recently reached the top spot in baseball's front office earlier this year when he became the 10th Commissioner of Major League Baseball; and

WHEREAS, Jacqueline M. Izzo was a talented athlete and coach in the sport of basketball; she was twice named an Intervalley League All-Star, and also played softball and volleyball; in addition, she was presented with the Paraclete Award which is given to the most outstanding citizen,

scholar and athlete; and

WHEREAS, An innovator in her sport, Jacqueline M. Izzo is the most successful girls basketball coach in Rome Catholic High School history; she has led some of her school's greatest teams to 230 victories, nine Intervalley League Championships, a Section III Championship, and an appearance in the state semifinals; active in her community, she recently announced her candidacy for mayor; and

WHEREAS, Peter M. Mastracco has been an outstanding all-around athlete and leader at RFA; he was named an all-star in hockey, football, and baseball during his high school career which concluded with his selection as his school's top senior student-athlete; and

WHEREAS, A two-time hockey all-star, Peter M. Mastracco helped guide his Black Knights to two state championships, and an undefeated 25-0 record during his senior season; after an outstanding collegiate career in hockey, he returned to RFA and has been coaching hockey and football for the past two decades; and

WHEREAS, For more than 40 years, Raymond A. Tarkowski has been a vital part of the sports community in the City of Rome; known to sports followers as the voice of RFA football, he has worked as the public address announcer and statistician for the Black Knights at the Stadium since the mid-1970s; and

WHEREAS, A graduate of Colgate University and Syracuse University Law School, Raymond A. Tarkowski has also served as the PA announcer for RFA basketball games, Hamilton College basketball games, the Empire State Games, and various Section III tournaments; in addition, he is a member of the RFA Touchdown Club, and has been active in youth sports as a baseball and basketball coach, as well as a league officer for many years; and

WHEREAS, Anne Marie Zakala is considered by many to be the best female bowler to come out of Rome, New York; she served as RFA's team captain during her high school career, and was an MVP and League All-Star, who

led the Black Knights to two Section III Championships; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable woman also achieved success on a national level during her time at Temple University in the 1980s, when she was a touring member of the Women's All-Star Association; her resume includes several honor scores, with a dozen 300 games, four 800 series and 11 all-event championships; currently, she serves as coach of the RFA Boys Varsity Bowling Team, where she has guided her squad to a sectional title and a berth in the state tournament; and

WHEREAS, Richard J. Zigrino was an exceptional high school athlete who played football at multiple positions for the RFA Black Knights; he was an outstanding placekicker and punter, as well as an excellent quarterback and defensive back; in addition, he was the high scorer for the RFA basketball team and a star hitter on the baseball squad who led the Black Knights in batting average, RBIs and extra-base hits; and

WHEREAS, After earning a football scholarship to Youngstown State, Richard J. Zigrino once again played three positions during his college career; after graduating, he also enjoyed an accomplished semi-pro football playing career, and was once credited with kicking a record-breaking 50-yard field goal; furthermore, in 1965, he played on a Toronto club that won the United Football League Championship; and

WHEREAS, Sports competition instills the values of teamwork, pride and accomplishment, and the 2015 inductees of the Rome Sports Hall of Fame have clearly made a contribution to the spirit of excellence which is a tradition of the Rome community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate the 2015 inductees of the Rome Sports Hall of Fame; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the 2015 inductees of the Rome Sports Hall of Fame.