

2015-J3105

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Mary Abigail Wambach upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize and acknowledge those within our midst who have made significant contributions to the quality of life therein; and

WHEREAS, From time to time, this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Mary Abigail Wambach upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Senate Liberty Medal was established by resolution and is awarded to individuals who have merited special commendation for exceptional, heroic, or humanitarian acts on behalf of their fellow New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, A native of Pittsford, New York, Mary Abigail Wambach, affectionately known as Abby, was the youngest of seven children born to Pete and Judy Wambach; she began playing soccer at the young age of four, and often competed against boys' teams in the Rochester area; and

WHEREAS, After graduating from Our Lady of Mercy High School, Abby Wambach attended the University of Florida, where she was named All-Southeastern Conference four times, Conference Player of the Year twice, and a three-time All-American; she also set numerous school records and lead her team to its first NCAA Division I Women's Soccer Championship;

and

WHEREAS, In 2001, Abby Wambach joined the United States Women's National Team, making her debut at the Nike U.S. Women's Cup; the following year, she recorded her first international goal during a friendly match against Finland in San Jose, California; and

WHEREAS, Abby Wambach was selected by the Washington Freedom as the second overall pick in the 2002 Women's United Soccer Association (WUSA) draft; during the 2003 season, she, along with her teammate Mia Hamm, helped their team capture the WUSA title by together scoring a remarkable 66 points; and

WHEREAS, As a member of the United States Women's National Team in 2003, Abby Wambach started nine games, including all five Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) Women's World Cup matches; for her efforts, she was named U.S. Soccer's Female Athlete of the Year, an award she would also capture in 2004, 2007, 2010, 2011, and 2013; and

WHEREAS, During the 2004 season, Abby Wambach scored 31 goals in 30 matches, making her only the fourth U.S. player to record double figures in goals and assists in a calendar year; and

WHEREAS, After recovering from a serious leg injury, Abby Wambach scored her 100th goal on July 19, 2009, in a match against Canada; two years later, she became the all-time leading American scorer in Women's World Cup history, recording her 13th World Cup goal as the United States faced Japan in the 2011 final; and

WHEREAS, One of the most talented forwards in her sport, Abby Wambach's outstanding efforts were instrumental in helping the U.S. Women's National Team earn two Olympic gold medals in 2004 and 2012; and
WHEREAS, The recipient of numerous awards and honors, Abby Wambach was named the 2012 FIFA World Player of the Year, becoming the first Ameri-

can woman to win the award in ten years; she also became the first individual soccer player to win the Associated Press's Athlete of the Year Award and was named one of Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People;

and

WHEREAS, Abby Wambach officially announced her retirement in October of 2015, and will play her last game on December 16, 2015, in New Orleans, when the United States plays the final match of its 10-game tour following their victory at the 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup; and

WHEREAS, Sports competition instills the values of teamwork, pride and accomplishment, and Abby Wambach has clearly made a contribution to the spirit of excellence which is a tradition of our nation and the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when exceptional athletes of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Mary Abigail Wambach upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the Liberty Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted Mary Abigail Wambach.