

2015-J3262

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating Mike Piazza upon the occasion of his election to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those esteemed individuals who distinguish themselves through exceptional performance, outstanding achievement, and peerless commitment to excellence; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Mike Piazza upon the occasion of his election to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York on Wednesday, January 6, 2016; he will be officially inducted on July 24, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Michael Joseph Piazza, affectionately known as Mike, was born in Norristown, Pennsylvania, in 1968, and grew up in nearby Phoenixville; he is the second oldest of five sons born to Vince and Veronica Piazza; and

WHEREAS, A talented young athlete, Mike Piazza practiced hitting with his father, and received personal instruction from baseball great Ted Williams; he was drafted by the Los Angeles Dodgers in 1988; and

WHEREAS, Mike Piazza won the 1993 Rookie of the Year Award and played seven spectacular seasons as catcher for the Los Angeles Dodgers before joining the New York Mets baseball team in 1998; and

WHEREAS, As a member of the New York Mets from 1998 to 2005, Mike Piazza became one of the most beloved players in the City's long and distinguished sports history through his exceptional drive and performance on the field; and

WHEREAS, During the 2000 season, Mike Piazza had at least one run-batted-in (RBI) in 15 consecutive games, the second longest RBI streak in

history, while leading his team to the Subway Series against the Yankees; and

WHEREAS, A hero to many New Yorkers, Mike Piazza will be long remembered for his towering and inspirational home run which was hit following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, Mike Piazza played his last game as a Met on October 2, 2005, and received a longstanding ovation from the fans at Shea Stadium; he continued to play baseball for the San Diego Padres and Oakland Athletics until his retirement in 2008; and

WHEREAS, Widely recognized as one of the greatest hitting catchers of all time, Mike Piazza compiled numerous impressive achievements during his Hall of Fame worthy career, including a lifetime batting average of .308, 427 career home runs, and 1,335 RBI; he was also selected a remarkable 12 times as a member of the National League All Star Team; and

WHEREAS, Following the announcement of being inducted, Mike Piazza has proudly chosen to be inducted into the Hall of Fame as a New York Met; and

WHEREAS, Mike Piazza has clearly been an inspiration to countless baseball fans, as well as to the community-at-large, and accordingly merits recognition and applause for his tremendous passion for the game and competitive spirit; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such outstanding athletic accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Mike Piazza on his election to the National Baseball Hall of Fame; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Mike Piazza.