

2015-J4566

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Tony Abone, Sr. upon the occasion of his retirement after 38 years of distinguished service as Manager of the American Legion Smith Post No. 24 Baseball Team

WHEREAS, Excellence and success in competitive sports can be achieved only through strenuous practice, team play and team spirit, nurtured by dedicated and outstanding coaching and strategic planning; and

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body to acknowledge the significant milestones in the distinguished careers of those outstanding athletic coaches, whose dedication and achievements have been an inspiration to citizens of the great 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 Tony Abone, Sr. upon the occasion of his retirement after 38 years of distinguished service as Manager of the American Legion Smith Post No. 24 Baseball Team; and

WHEREAS, Born on January 8, 1933, in Rome, New York, Tony Abone, Sr. proudly served his country as a member of the United States Army during the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, Upon the completion of his distinguished military service, Tony Abone, Sr. worked as an aircraft sheet metal specialist at Griffiss Air Force base for 37 years before retiring in 1988; and

WHEREAS, With a lifelong passion for baseball, Tony Abone, Sr. honed his management skills at the Rome American Little League, Rome Federal Little League, and Rome Farm League before joining the American Legion Smith Post No. 24 Baseball Team in 1978; and

WHEREAS, For the past 38 years, this inspirational leader has served as a Coach and Manager at the American Legion Smith Post No. 24, where he has guided and mentored countless young athletes, and achieved

outstanding success; and

WHEREAS, During his illustrious tenure, Tony Abone, Sr.'s teams compiled a 730-291-4 record, including five state finalist appearances, two state titles, and numerous Oneida County and District V titles; and

WHEREAS, In 1978, Tony Abone, Sr. won his first New York State Baseball Championship coaching alongside Bill Vinci; 20 years later, he won his second state title as Manager in 1998; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, Manager Tony Abone, Sr.'s American Legion Smith Post No. 24 teams appeared in the 2002 state finals, and recorded three consecutive finals appearances from 2007 to 2009; and

WHEREAS, Since 1985, Manager Tony Abone, Sr. has been joined in the dugout by his son, Tony Abone, Jr., who has assisted his father over the years; he will be taking over managerial duties at the start of the 2016 season; and

WHEREAS, The recipient of numerous awards and accolades during his exceptional career, Tony Abone, Sr. was inducted into the Rome Sports Hall of Fame in 2006; and

WHEREAS, Tony Abone, Sr.'s positive demeanor, selfless commitment, and caring concern have contributed to his enduring success as a coach and mentor, earning him the just respect and admiration of his community, his peers, and the countless athletes he has so ably coached; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Rosemarie, and their two children, Joe and Tony, Jr., all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when exceptional leaders 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 commend Tony Abone, Sr. upon the occasion of his retirement after 38 years of distinguished service as Manager of the American Legion Smith

Post No. 24 Baseball Team; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Tony Abone, Sr.