

## 2015-J5943

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring John Pitarresi upon the occasion of his induction into the Greater Utica Sports Hall of Fame

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to outstanding athletes who have distinguished themselves through their exceptional performance, attaining unprecedented success and the highest level of personal achievement; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor John Pitarresi upon the occasion of his induction into the Greater Utica Sports Hall of Fame, to be celebrated on Wednesday, May 18, 2016, at Harts Hill Inn, Whitesboro, New York; and

WHEREAS, Entering the Greater Utica Sports Hall of Fame in the Outstanding Supporter/Promoter category, John Pitarresi began his illustrious career in 1972, spending 43 years as a sports reporter and columnist for the Utica Newspapers; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his tenure, John Pitarresi covered every sport imaginable, from youth leagues to the professional ranks, and occasionally working on the news side at THE DAILY PRESS and THE OBSERVER DISPATCH; and

WHEREAS, John Pitarresi chronicled many outstanding teams, including the 1982 Atlantic Coast Hockey League champion Mohawk Valley Stars, the 1983 New York-Penn League champion Utica Blue Sox, the 1984 New York-Penn League champion Little Falls Mets, Colgate University's 2003 Patriot League champion NCAA FCS finals football team, Syracuse University's 2003 NCAA championship basketball team, Hamilton College's 2008 national championship women's lacrosse team, and the Utica Comets 2015 Calder Cup Finals team; and

WHEREAS, Over the course of more than four decades, John Pitarresi

followed high schools and colleges, amateurs and professionals, the annual Baseball Hall of Fame inductions, and everything from table tennis to professional boxing; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, John Pitarresi's work also included feature stories and profiles of scores of prominent local and national sports figures; and

WHEREAS, A champion of the outdoors, John Pitarresi has also penned an award-winning column that is the best source of information about the wondrous local resources, sportsmen and sportswomen; and

WHEREAS, John Pitarresi is a native of Niagara Falls, New York, and a graduate of LaSalle High School, where he played football and baseball; he went on to graduate from Hamilton College in 1970, during which time he was co-captain of the football team and captain of the lacrosse team; and

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

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor John Pitarresi upon the occasion of his induction into the Greater Utica Sports Hall of Fame; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to John Pitarresi.