

2021-K614

Assembly Resolution No. 614

BY: M. of A. Barclay

COMMEMORATING the late Great Mark S. Roth upon his 70 years of a life well lived, his tremendous achievements in the world of bowling, and as a player who helped revolutionize the sport

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge outstanding athletes who distinguish 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 commemorate the late Great Mark S. Roth upon his 70 years of a life well lived, his tremendous achievements in the world of bowling, and as a player who helped revolutionize the sport; and

WHEREAS, A former resident of Fulton, New York, Mark S. Roth taught himself how to bowl while working at Rainbow Lanes while living in Brooklyn, New York; during this time, he set a goal to become the greatest bowler in the world and committed to practicing every day; and

WHEREAS, Later, in 1989, Mark S. Roth and his partners purchased Rainbow Lanes and renamed it Mark Roth Lanes; and

WHEREAS, Mark S. Roth's goals, determination, and talent led to him to become an icon in the sport, earning 34 Professional Bowling Association (PBA) national titles, surpassing \$1,000,000 in career winnings, the second professional bowler to do so, and was inducted into the PBA Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Mark S. Roth's long and storied professional bowling career began in 1970, when he debuted his trademark, hard-throwing style that created a generation of imitators and is now prevalent throughout the sport; he was also famous for his ability to pick up spares and was the first bowler to pick up a 7-10 split on national television on January 5, 1980; and

WHEREAS, In 1975, Mark S. Roth shot a 299 during the televised finals to win his first PBA title at the King Louie Open in Overland Park, Kansas; he repeated the achievement in 1987, at the Greater Buffalo Open in Cheektowaga, New York; and

WHEREAS, In 1978, Mark S. Roth won eight titles which is still the PBA record for a single season, and was named PBA player of the year in 1977, 1978, 1979 and 1984; and

WHEREAS, Mark S. Roth also received the George Young Memorial Award six different seasons for the highest average in the PBA; and

WHEREAS, In 2006, Mark S. Roth won the very first Generations Bowling Tour event, and two years later, he was ranked number 5 on the PBA's list of 50 Greatest Players of the last 50 years; and

WHEREAS, In addition to being inducted in the PBA Hall of Fame in 1987, Mark S. Roth was inducted in the Staten Island Bowling Hall of Fame in 2000, the United States Bowling Congress Hall of Fame in 2009, the New York State Bowling Hall of Fame in 2010, and the National Jewish Sports Hall of Fame in 2014; and

WHEREAS, Mark S. Roth's fame transcended the sporting world and met Hollywood when he played a professional bowler in the 1996 movie "Kingpin" starring Woody Harrelson and Dennis Quaid; and

WHEREAS, Even though a stroke in 2009 caused Mark S. Roth to be paralyzed on his left side, he remained as active as possible and in 2010, he was able to attend the first annual Geico Mark Roth Plastic Ball Championship, a PBA nationally televised event held in his honor; today, it is known as the Mark Roth-Marshall Holman PBA Doubles

Championship; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his many professional bowling tournaments, charity bowling tournaments were a focus for the late Great Mark Roth, and he frequently used his talent and fame to help raise funds for a number of causes including the Children's Miracle Network; after his retirement, he made several guest appearances at the annual Upstate University Hospital-Strikes Against Strokes at Flamingo Bowl in Liverpool, New York; and

WHEREAS, A gifted athlete, Mark S. Roth was a renowned role model in the sport of professional bowling; his character and achievements stand as a sterling example and inspiration to all who would aspire to success; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the late Great Mark S. Roth upon his 70 years of a life well lived, his tremendous achievements in the world of bowling, and as a player who helped revolutionize the sport; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Denise Roth, Mark S. Roth's beloved wife.