

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the International Boxing Hall of Fame upon the occasion of its 25th Anniversary

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize those outstanding institutions within our midst that have had a significant impact on our culture by effectively preserving and honoring New York's rich history; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the International Boxing Hall of Fame in Canastota, New York, upon the occasion of its 25th Anniversary to be celebrated during Hall of Fame weekend June 5-8, 2014; and

WHEREAS, For the past 25 years, the mission of the International Boxing Hall of Fame has been to honor and preserve boxing's rich heritage, chronicle the achievements of those who have excelled in the sport, and to provide an educational experience to thousands of visitors each year; and

WHEREAS, Beginning more than a century ago with the reign of heavyweight champion John L. Sullivan, professional boxing champions have been among the most celebrated athletes in United States history, but for many years, there was no structure to chronicle and preserve that history; and

WHEREAS, The idea for an International Boxing Hall of Fame grew out of Canastota's desire to honor two of their hometown boxing champions and all other boxing legends, so a large group of dedicated boxing enthusiasts from the Village of Canastota and the Town of Lenox united to establish a home for the sport, and what would be the first boxing hall of fame on the East Coast; and

WHEREAS, In 1989, the International Boxing Hall of Fame was completed, and two dozen boxing legends witnessed the momentous occasion with a ribbon cutting ceremony and celebration; and

WHEREAS, One year later, the first class of boxing legends, Muhammad Ali, Emile Griffith, Carmen Basilio, Billy Conn, Willie Pep, Bob Foster, Jake LaMotta, Kid Gavilan, Jose Napoles, Archie Moore, Sandy Saddler, Carlos Monzon, Joe Frazier, and Jersey Joe Walcott, was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Over the past 25 years, the International Boxing Hall of Fame has honored and inducted 412 boxers, trainers and other contributors to the sport worldwide; the Hall of Fame has also expanded by adding a wing with interactive exhibits to the Museum and an event pavilion adjacent to the Hall; and

WHEREAS, The International Boxing Hall of Fame holds an annual induction ceremony in early June as the highlight of a four-day celebration; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the International Boxing Hall of Fame upon the occasion of its 25th Anniversary; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the International Boxing Hall of Fame.