

BY: Senator GALLIVAN

HONORING the 1963 National Invitation Tournament Canisius College Men's Basketball Team upon the occasion of being inducted into the Canisius College Sports Hall of Fame on February 26, 2017

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 the 1963 National Invitation Tournament Canisius College Men's Basketball Team upon the occasion of being inducted into the Canisius College Sports Hall of Fame to be celebrated on Sunday, February 26, 2017, at the Hall of Fame Day basketball game against Saint Peter's at the Koessler Athletic Center, Buffalo, New York; and

WHEREAS, The 1963 National Invitation Tournament (NIT) Canisius College Men's Basketball Team, coached by Canisius College Sports Hall of Famer Bob MacKinnon, defeated Memphis State and Villanova, two college teams with future National Basketball Association (NBA) players Jim Washington and Wali Jones; and

WHEREAS, In the championship game, the Golden Griffins took on Providence, whose lineup included John Thompson, future Coach at Georgetown as well as Ray Flynn, future Mayor of Boston; the Golden Griffins were defeated, 81-66, ending the longest NIT run in Canisius College history; and

WHEREAS, Previously, four exceptional players of this remarkable 1963 team were honored and inducted into the Canisius College Sports Hall of Fame including Billy O'Connor, Tom Chester, Frank Swiatek and Patrick Turtle; and

WHEREAS, Team members who also appeared in the championship game included Dick McClory, Tony Gennari, Tim O'Mara, John Kemmer, Joe Bossert, Larry Hartigan, Jack Oberding and John Brennan; and

WHEREAS, The hallmarks of the 1963 National Invitation Tournament Canisius College Men's Basketball Team, from the opening game of the season to participation in the championship, were a brotherhood of athletic ability, of good sportsmanship, of honor and of scholarship, demonstrating that these team players were truly second to none; and

WHEREAS, The 1963 Golden Griffins have been an inspiration to countless basketball fans, as well as to the community-at-large, and accordingly merits recognition and applause for their 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; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is moved to honor the 1963 National Invitation Tournament Canisius College Men's Basketball Team upon the occasion of being inducted into the Canisius College Sports Hall of Fame for their extraordinary accomplishments which were a tribute to the team's skill, dedication and commitment; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate the 1963 National Invitation Tournament Canisius College Men's Basketball Team; its members: Joe Bossert, John Brennan, Tom Chester, Tony Gennari, Larry Harrigan, John Kemmer, Dick McClory, Jack Oberding, Billy O'Connor, Tim O'Mara, Frank Swiatek, Patrick Turtle; and Coach Bob MacKinnon; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the aforementioned members of the 1963 National Invitation Tournament Canisius College Men's Basketball Team and Coach Bob MacKinnon.