

BY: Senator TEDISCO

PAYING tribute to the 1959 Mont Pleasant High School Track and Field Team upon the occasion of it being honored as part of a special Legacy Tribute during the 22nd Annual Schenectady County Athletic Hall of Fame and Reunion Dinner on September 16, 2019

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

WHEREAS, Athletic competition enhances the moral and physical development of the young people of this State, preparing them for the future by instilling in them the value of teamwork, encouraging a standard of healthy living, imparting a desire for success and developing a sense of fair play and competition; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those outstanding athletes who inspired and brought pride to their school and community by achieving outstanding success in competition, 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 pay tribute to the 1959 Mont Pleasant High School Track and Field Team upon the occasion of it being honored as part of a special Legacy Tribute during the 22nd Annual Schenectady County Athletic Hall of Fame and Reunion Dinner on Monday, September 16, 2019, at Glen Sanders Mansion, Scotia, New York; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious event will also commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the 1959 Mont Pleasant High School Track and Field Team's undefeated season; and

WHEREAS, The 1959 Mont Pleasant High School Track and Field Team finished the season undefeated, winning three dual meets, the Rye Invitational and the Utica Interscholastic Track and Field Meet; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, this extraordinary team tied powerful Bishop Loughlin of New York City to capture the Schenectady Interscholastic Sports Carnival Title, and easily won the Class A Sectionals, winning eight of 12 events with an 8-0 record, outscoring its opponents 212-83; the number one ranked Patriots also captured the New York State Class A Championship; and

WHEREAS, The athletic talent displayed by the 1959 Mont Pleasant High School Track and Field Team was due in great part to the efforts of Schenectady Central School District Hall of Famers Head Coach the late Ray Vacca and Assistant Coach Larry Mulvaney, skilled and inspirational

tutors who did a superb job in guiding, molding and inspiring the team members toward their goals; and

WHEREAS, Gifted athletes, the 1959 Mont Pleasant High School Track and Field Team proved themselves to be an unbeatable combination of athletic and academic talents, whose character and achievements stand as a sterling example and inspiration to all who would aspire to success; and

WHEREAS, Loyally and enthusiastically supported by family, fans, friends and the community at large, the 1959 Mont Pleasant High School Track and Field Team clearly made a contribution to the spirit of excellence which became a tradition at their school; 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 the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate the members of the 1959 Mont Pleasant High School Track and Field Team: Bruce Baluch, Jr., Dick Batista, Paul Battaglino, Don Blaha, John Bowe, Paul Brisson, Larry Canell, Jim Crannell, Jack Edwards, John Farry, Tom Farry, Dick Fazzone, Sam Ferrucci, Gary Gilbert, Ron Horan, Mike Keigher, Bob Lewkowicz, Joe Mackey, Pat Maney, Jonell Marion, Paul McDonald, Doug Meyer, Jeff Mirate, Lou Paparella, Steve Pedersen, Ed Russell, Jim Scott, John Skibinski, Paul Surin, Jerry Symeon, Luciano Toffolo and Gary Watrous; the late, Al Bojarski, Jim Bowers, Gary Carmichael, Nathaniel Croxton, Steve Furbert, Wayne Leece, Sal Madelone, Tom Nicklaw and Jerry Vinehout; Head Coach the late Ray Vacca; Assistant Coach Larry Mulvaney; and Team Manager Dick Blanchard on their outstanding season and overall team record; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the members of the 1959 Mont Pleasant High School Track and Field Team, Assistant Coach Larry Mulvaney, Team Manager Dick Blanchard, and the families of its deceased team members and Head Coach Ray Vacca.