

BY: Senator GALLIVAN

CONGRATULATING Lou Spiotti Jr. upon the occasion of his retirement after 47 years of distinguished service to Rochester Institute of Technology

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality of life in the communities across this great State of New York is enriched by the diligence and compassionate commitment of those individuals whose singular purpose is the care and welfare of our student athletes; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Lou Spiotti Jr. upon the occasion of his retirement after 47 years of distinguished service to Rochester Institute of Technology; and

WHEREAS, In 1974, Lou Spiotti Jr. began his renowned career at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) as the head football coach; he was soon promoted to Executive Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, a position he has held for the past 41 years, truly transforming the lives of countless student-athletes; and

WHEREAS, Within his first few years leading RIT's athletics program, Lou Spiotti Jr. hired energetic coaches who would help RIT gain both local and national recognition; he worked tirelessly to grow the inherited 15 teams to the current 24 teams comprised of more than 650 student-athletes; and

WHEREAS, This strategic growth spawned unprecedented Division III success with 41 conference championships during the last 20 years, including ten consecutive league titles by the men's lacrosse program and women's basketball playing in three straight NCAA Tournaments; and

WHEREAS, Lou Spiotti Jr. also led both hockey programs through a successful transition from Division III to Division I; in 2010, the men played their way to the NCAA "Frozen Four" and soon thereafter, the women won back-to-back College Hockey America (CHA) conference championships in their first two seasons of Division I play; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, with a steadfast devotion to his profession, Lou Spiotti Jr. also served as president of the Empire 8 and the United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association (USILA), as well as on the Atlantic Hockey Board of Directors, including a term as chair of the executive committee; and

WHEREAS, As the nation's longest tenured athletic director, his list of accomplishments is impressive and many, but perhaps most remarkable is the message Lou Spiotti Jr. has continuously conveyed to his student-athletes about excelling in the classroom and becoming leaders in life; and

WHEREAS, Under his able leadership, the cumulative GPA of student-athletes has consistently been above the average of the entire student body, with 52 Academic All-Americans and 250 Academic All-League selections; and

WHEREAS, For his body of work as an athlete, coach and administrator, Lou Spiotti Jr. has earned induction into seven sports Halls of Fame, including Aquinas Institute, Section V Football, Frontier Field Walk of Fame, Ithaca College Athletics Hall of Fame, RIT Sports Hall of Fame, the Rochester Chapter of the Italian-American Sports Hall of Fame and the Adult Recreation Association of Rochester Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, A true advocate for his student-athletes, Lou Spiotti Jr. has approached every day of his illustrious tenure with the goal of making their experience outstanding and thriving on seeing the goodness within them; and

WHEREAS, Lou Spiotti Jr. is a consummate example of class and professionalism; his can-do demeanor, unwavering commitment to his student-athletes, and collaborative pursuit of excellence both on and off the field is the backbone of RIT's outstanding intercollegiate athletic program; and

WHEREAS, For more than four decades, Lou Spiotti Jr. has put his heart, mind and soul into building RIT Athletics into a nationally recognized best-in-class program; he has served as a role model for thousands of NCAA student-athletes; while RIT Tigers have won numerous national and conference championships, Lou's legacy will be one of building a culture of character and integrity; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Lynn, and their two daughters, Lisa and Kristen, as well as three grandchildren, Dylan, Drew and Alexandra, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his many achievements; and

WHEREAS, In completing his service as Executive Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, Lou Spiotti Jr. leaves behind more than mere bricks and mortar; he leaves behind a legacy to the student-athletes of RIT, both past and present, and to the residents of the community-at-large; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Lou Spiotti Jr. upon the occasion of his retirement after 47 years of distinguished service to Rochester Institute of Technology; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Lou Spiotti Jr.