

Senate Resolution No. 1790

BY: Senator RATH

HONORING Batavia Muckdogs Baseball upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the Entrepreneurial Business of the Year Award by the Genesee County Chamber of Commerce

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are enhanced by the concerned and dedicated efforts of business organizations and individuals that generously contribute to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Batavia Muckdogs Baseball upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the Entrepreneurial Business of the Year Award by the Genesee County Chamber of Commerce to be celebrated at its 50th Annual Awards Ceremony on Saturday, March 12, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Batavia Muckdogs Baseball is receiving this auspicious award for its demonstrated growth and commitment to Genesee County; and

WHEREAS, Professional baseball has been a staple of summer life in Batavia, New York, for 80 years; originally founded in 1939, Batavia Muckdogs Baseball was an original member and birthplace of the New York Penn League; and

WHEREAS, Unfortunately, after a successful 2019 season, Major League Baseball cut 42 minor league teams, including Batavia; and

WHEREAS, In February of 2021, Robbie Nichols announced he had negotiated a lease with the City of Batavia to bring a Perfect Game Collegiate Baseball League franchise to Dwyer Stadium; the PGCBL consists of college baseball players hopeful of being drafted into professional baseball; and

WHEREAS, During this time, Robbie Nichols and his family had approximately 100 days to put together an entire organization from scratch, from recruiting college players, to selling tickets and advertising, to revitalizing the field and stadium to market the new team to the community; and

WHEREAS, With a steadfast and unremitting commitment to the game of baseball and the community-at-large, the new Batavia Muckdogs were a huge success, crushing attendance records despite their late start; and

WHEREAS, The success of the Muckdogs was truly a family affair; Robbie and his wife, Nellie, are always at the stadium, along with their son-in-law, Marc Witt, who serves as the team's General Manager; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, truly devoted to their beloved community, the

Batavia Muckdogs give tirelessly to countless local organizations, including Challenger Baseball, the Battle of the Badges (police vs fire) softball game, the PRIDE Festival and the Alzheimer's Walk; they also host a youth baseball academy, a Halloween Trick or Treat event, as well as high school and collegiate baseball games; and

WHEREAS, Additionally, the players are always available for community appearances and even marched in the City's Memorial Day Parade; and

WHEREAS, The success of Batavia Muckdogs Baseball is in direct correlation to the efforts of its owners and general manager, as well as its dedicated staff, whose involvement is, and always has been, characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all endeavors on behalf of the business and the community it serves; and

WHEREAS, It is with great pleasure that this Legislative Body acknowledges this exceptional business and its contributions to the local and State economies, fully confident that it will continue to enjoy the sparkling successes it has experienced thus far; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Batavia Muckdogs Baseball upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the Entrepreneurial Business of the Year Award by the Genesee County Chamber of Commerce; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Batavia Muckdogs Baseball.