

BY: Senator GRIFFO

HONORING the 1981 Rome Free Academy Football Team upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the Ellie Bruce Award for Exceptional Team Excellence

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 honor the 1981 Rome Free Academy Football Team upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the Ellie Bruce Award for Exceptional Team Excellence, to be celebrated at a Ceremony on Sunday, August 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, The 1981 Rome Free Academy Football Team will always be remembered as one of the best in the school's history; under the able guidance of Coach Tom Hoke, a skilled and inspirational tutor, respected for his ability to develop potential into excellence, the Black Knights captured the New York State Championship in a decisive 22-6 victory against West Genesee High School; and

WHEREAS, In addition, several players made All-League, Sectional and State All-Star teams; and

WHEREAS, Much of the 1981 team's success was forged in the weight room during the previous summer and during the regular season; a true team of brothers, who had played together since 7th grade, the athletes worked and played hard, and did everything the coaches asked of them and more; and

WHEREAS, Gifted athletes, the 1981 Rome Free Academy Football 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, Loyal and enthusiastically supported by family, fans,

friends and the community at large, the 1981 Rome Free Academy Football 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 honor the 1981 Rome Free Academy Football Team upon the occasion of its designation as recipient of the Ellie Bruce Award for Exceptional Team Excellence; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the members of the 1981 Rome Free Academy Football Team and Coach Tom Hoke.