

BY: Senator GRIFFO

HONORING Phyllis R. Niemi upon the occasion of
being inducted into the Rome Sports Hall of Fame

WHEREAS, It is the custom 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 Phyllis R. Niemi upon the occasion of being inducted into the Rome Sports Hall of Fame, to be celebrated at a Ceremony on Sunday, August 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Every year, the Rome Sports Hall of Fame publicly commends the pursuit of athletic excellence, recognizes those who have excelled, and strives to preserve Rome's rich athletic heritage; Phyllis R. Niemi is truly deserving of this prestigious award; and

WHEREAS, Born in 1947, Phyllis R. Niemi played varsity field hockey, basketball and softball at Croton-Harmon High School; after graduating in 1965, she earned her degree from the State University of New York at Cortland, and became an elementary school physical education teacher with the Rome School District; and

WHEREAS, An excellent teacher and coach, Phyllis R. Niemi introduced her students to a wide variety of sports, which culminated in city-wide play day with all the elementary schools competing against each other; and

WHEREAS, Through the school district's impressive physical education curriculum, Phyllis R. Niemi was introduced to gymnastics and began her lifetime love of and commitment to the sport; she was truly dedicated to giving every child a chance to excel, build self-esteem and improve all of their athletic skills; and

WHEREAS, In 1984, Phyllis R. Niemi was named varsity gymnastics coach at the Rome Free Academy (RFA), where she remained for 13 years compiling a remarkable record of 98 and 61 (51-7 in the league) which included seven league championships and seven undefeated seasons; she also guided and inspired 23 of her athletes to individual sectional championships; and

WHEREAS, In addition to her work at RFA, Phyllis R. Niemi coached the Central Empire State Games Gymnastics Team for 10 years; and

WHEREAS, Today, in her much-deserved retirement, Phyllis R. Niemi and her husband Duane split their time between their home in Rome and Florida, and she serves as a widely admired, certified and very busy gymnastics official; and

WHEREAS, Phyllis R. Niemi has clearly made a contribution to the spirit of excellence which is a tradition of her Rome community; 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; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Phyllis R. Niemi upon the occasion of being inducted into the Rome Sports Hall of Fame; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Phyllis R. Niemi.