

Senate Resolution No. 800

BY: Senator GRIFFO

HONORING Michael J. Orbinati posthumously 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 Michael J. Orbinati posthumously 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; Michael J. Orbinati is truly deserving of this prestigious award; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his storied coaching career, Michael J. Orbinati was a skilled and inspirational tutor, respected for his ability to develop potential into excellence; he will always be remembered for being tough, yet fair; and

WHEREAS, Born and raised on Railroad Street in Rome, New York, Michael "Mike" J. Orbinati went on to become a great football player at Rome Free Academy during the mid-1940s, and was named captain of the 1947 team; upon graduating, he attended St. Bonaventure University on a football scholarship; and

WHEREAS, Michael J. Orbinati then became a well-respected coach at Cardinal Mindszenty High School (CMHS), Westfield High School and his alma mater; in 1968, he left Rome, and became the head football coach at Proctor High School in Utica, where he concluded his superlative athletic career as the Utica School District's athletic administrator until his retirement in 1991; and

WHEREAS, It was during Michael J. Orbinati's years at CMHS that he had his greatest success as a coach, much of it related to his use of the then mostly unknown "hurry up offense" or "no-huddle offense," which he designed and later shared with his former St. Bonaventure teammate, Ted Marchibroda, who introduced that offense to the NFL; and

WHEREAS, Coach Orbinati's 1958 and 1959 teams went 15 and 1, outscoring their opponents 531 to 63, and his undefeated 1958 team was the only unbeaten team (8-0) in CMHS' history; and

WHEREAS, After his death in 2010, at the age of 81, Michael J. Orbinati's family created a college scholarship award in his memory; The

Run to the Whistle Award was annually given to a Proctor High School football player who always gave it all he had, just like Michael did; and

WHEREAS, Michael J. Orbinati clearly made a contribution to the spirit of excellence which is a tradition of his 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 Michael J. Orbinati posthumously 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 the family of Michael J. Orbinati.