

BY: Senator GRIFFO

HONORING Vern "JR" Purrington 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 Vern "JR" Purrington 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; Vern Purrington is truly deserving of this prestigious award; and

WHEREAS, Vern Purrington was a hockey player extraordinaire for Coach Bill Fleet at Rome Catholic High School, and North Country Community College in Saranac Lake, where he was inducted into its Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, An exceptional athlete, Vern Purrington was a positive force on Rome Catholic High School's (RCH) football, baseball and lacrosse teams; however, hockey was the love of his life, and he could often be found playing street hockey with his neighborhood pals or organized hockey at the arena; and

WHEREAS, Vern Purrington had a great shot and could score from anywhere on the ice, leading his team to many big victories; he was a clutch player who always came through when it mattered the most; and

WHEREAS, During his senior year, Vern Purrington scored a short-handed goal to give the Redwings a 3-2 win over Watertown High School to win the sectional title, and during the New York State Championship game, he got an assist to tie the game with six seconds left to play, and then scored the winning goal 43 seconds into overtime to give RCH its first ever New York State Championship; and

WHEREAS, Vern Purrington graduated from RCH in 1984, as the school's all-time leading scorer with 133 goals and 98 assists to become Rome's career top high school scorer; he then went on to enjoy a successful hockey career at North Country Community College; and

WHEREAS, Later, Vern Purrington worked for the New York State Department of Corrections; and

WHEREAS, Vern Purrington has 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 Vern "JR" Purrington 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 Vern "JR" Purrington.