

BY: Senator GRIFFO

HONORING Joseph A. Ryan Jr. 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 Joseph A. Ryan Jr. 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; Joseph A. Ryan Jr. is truly deserving of this prestigious award; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his storied coaching career, Joseph A. Ryan Jr. was a skilled and inspirational tutor, respected for his ability to develop potential into excellence; he was perhaps, most well-known for his oft repeated, heartfelt pronouncement, "You've got to give back"; and

WHEREAS, Joseph "Joe" A. Ryan Jr. graduated from Westmoreland High School in 1966, where he was the star player on the basketball team; he then attended the State University of New York at Cobleskill for two years before being drafted into the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, A true patriot, Joseph A. Ryan Jr. proudly served his country as an armored personnel carrier driver during the Vietnam War; upon the completion of his military service, he returned to New York and took a job as an ambulance driver; and

WHEREAS, Joseph A. Ryan Jr. married the former Nancy Nunn, and together, they raised four sons, Joe, Marty, Brendan and Kevin; he ran a successful business and was very involved with his sons' lives, serving as their coach and hundreds of other athletes in both youth basketball and baseball; and

WHEREAS, A role model for numerous young people, Joseph A. Ryan Jr. was also a coach at St. Peters Roman Catholic Church and Rome Catholic School (RCH), was instrumental in bringing a hoop tournament to Rome, played and coached in the Black River Basketball league, and wrote a weekly sports column; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Joseph A. Ryan Jr. was involved with many other community organizations such as the RCH Boosters Club, Rome Sports

Hall of Fame, Rome Chamber of Commerce, Rome United Way, Knights of Columbus, and the Kiwanis Club; and

WHEREAS, Joseph A. Ryan Jr. 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 Joseph A. Ryan Jr. 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 Joseph A. Ryan Jr.