

BY: Senator GRIFFO

HONORING John Walsh upon the occasion of being
inducted into the Rome Sports Hall of Fame on July
30, 2023

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 John Walsh upon the occasion of being inducted into the Rome Sports Hall of Fame on Sunday, July 30, 2023; 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; John Walsh is truly deserving of this prestigious award; and

WHEREAS, As a young man, John Walsh participated in multiple sports activities, including basketball and baseball; and

WHEREAS, As an RFA graduate, John Walsh specialized in several events in indoor and outdoor track, as he was a very successful sprinter, distance runner, and jumper; his love of hard work and competition kept him focused throughout an outstanding high school career, setting a myriad of records that still stand today; and

WHEREAS, Continuing his academic and athletic career, John Walsh went to Syracuse University for two years, where he tied the school high jump record; he then attended Alfred State University where his success continued for three more years, and he started training for the Decathlon his senior year; and

WHEREAS, After college, John Walsh continued to train with the goal of making the Olympics, persevering for seven years with a very demanding job and lengthy, daily training routines; although he didn't make the Olympic team, John learned many valuable lessons from his experience; and

WHEREAS, John Walsh has continued to share his experience by volunteering as a track coach at Naples High School for the past 10 years, coaching pole vault, and high jump; he enjoys working with the kids to achieve their goals and learn the value of hard work; and

WHEREAS, Active with the Roman Runners, John Walsh was a Section 3 Indoor and Outdoor High Jump Track Champion and was also a member of the Empire State Games team, where he placed first in the high jump and second in the Decathlon in 1979; and

WHEREAS, As a testament to his dedication to being an athlete, in 2005, John Walsh was inducted into the Alfred State Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, John Walsh 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 John Walsh upon the occasion of being inducted into the Rome Sports Hall of Fame on July 30, 2023; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to John Walsh.