

BY: Senator GRIFFO

HONORING Wallace Matthews upon the occasion of his induction into the International Boxing Hall of Fame and Museum

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge outstanding broadcast journalists who distinguished themselves through their exceptional story-telling in sports, attaining unprecedented success and the highest level of personal achievement; Wallace Matthews is one such individual and his life of achievements inspired others and contributed to the respect and admiration of the sport of boxing; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Wallace Matthews upon the occasion of his induction into the International Boxing Hall of Fame and Museum; he will be honored for his role as a sports journalist at the 35th Anniversary celebration from June 6-9, 2024, in Canastota, New York; and

WHEREAS, Born on January 3, 1957 in New York City, Wallace Matthews began his career as a boxing journalist in 1983 after having a career as a New York Golden Gloves boxer; he covered fights at Madison Square Garden's Felt Forum while working part-time for Newsday; and

WHEREAS, Over the next four decades, Wallace Matthews was ringside reporting on such iconic fights as Hagler vs. Hearns, Hagler vs. Leonard, Spinks vs. Holmes I & II, and all the remarkable Mike Tyson fights; and

WHEREAS, Wallace Matthews's byline appeared in such notable outlets as the New York Times, Newsday, the Washington Post, the New York Post, the New York Daily News, Sports Illustrated, Sport Magazine, Yahoo Sports, and ESPN; and

WHEREAS, A multi-talented journalist, Wallace Matthews has served as the ringside reporter for NBC-TV at the 1988 and 1992 Olympics; additionally, he worked as a ringside analyst for Showtime, CBS-TV, Sports Channel America, Versus, and ESPN; and

WHEREAS, Venturing into talk shows, Wallace Matthews hosted the SiriusXM boxing show "Going the Distance" with Teddy Atlas and Nabate Isles; he also hosted a drive-time sports talk show "Wally and the Keeg" on ESPN radio; and

WHEREAS, From 1989 to 1993, Wallace Matthews served as President of the Boxing Writers Association of America; in 1994, for his dedication to the sport and profession, he was awarded the Nat Fleischer Award for Excellence in Boxing Journalism by the BWAA; and

WHEREAS, Still avidly involved with the sport of boxing and inspiring youth, Wallace Matthews currently runs a boxing program at the

YMCA in Huntington, New York; and

WHEREAS, Wallace Matthews clearly contributed to the spirit of excellence which is a tradition of the International Boxing Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such outstanding 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 Wallace Matthews upon the occasion of his induction into the International Boxing Hall of Fame and Museum; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Wallace Matthews.