

BY: Senator GALLIVAN

HONORING Mike Bowers upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Lifetime Achiever of the Year Award by the Clarence Chamber of Commerce on March 21, 2024

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those distinguished citizens who would devote their life's work and purpose to community service, contributing to the welfare of the citizens of their communities and this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Mike Bowers upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Lifetime Achiever of the Year Award by the Clarence Chamber of Commerce, to be celebrated at its Annual Awards Gala on Thursday, March 21, 2024, at Samuel's Grande Manor in Clarence, New York; and

WHEREAS, Mike Bowers was nominated for this prestigious award for his steadfast and unrelenting commitment to his beloved community of Clarence Center, New York; and

WHEREAS, Mike Bowers and his wife of nearly 49 years, Debbie, moved to Clarence, New York, in 1986, when they were employed by the Clarence Church of Christ to serve as student ministers and assist in general ministry; and

WHEREAS, A love of sports began Mike Bowers' community connection in town; his three children, Josh, Caleb, and Krista, all attended Clarence High School, during which time he served as a Coach for the Town of Clarence Baseball Association; he also assisted with Clarence Youth Basketball and has attended hundreds of sports and musical events at the local schools; and

WHEREAS, Under the able leadership of Mike Bowers, the Clarence Church of Christ started the renowned Upward Basketball program for boys and girls in grades K-4; he has also led several food packing events for International Disaster Emergency Services where, with the help of community groups, the church can pack 65,000 meals in one weekend; and

WHEREAS, Mike Bowers has been instrumental in the success of several church initiatives, including its day-habilitation program for individuals from Heritage Christian Services, as well as its Family Promise program, providing space for displaced and homeless families; furthermore, each December the church provides meals and toys to local families through the Christmas Giving Project; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Mike Bowers has displayed throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Mike Bowers upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the Lifetime Achiever Award by the Clarence Chamber of Commerce on March 21, 2024; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Mike Bowers.