

BY: Senator GRIFFO

COMMEMORATING the 50th Anniversary of America's
Greatest Heart Run/Walk

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize organizations of noble aims and accomplishments for their charitable endeavors which serve New York communities at large; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of America's Greatest Heart Run/Walk of Utica, New York, on Saturday, March 2, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Utica, New York, is home to this much-anticipated annual event, with roots running back to 1947, when one lone runner, Larry Lewicki, collected \$65 from co-workers at Jay-K Lumber and ran five miles to support the American Heart Association; four friends joined him the next year and raised \$274; and

WHEREAS, In 1988, the Heart Run became the Run/Walk when walkers were added to the mix; today, walkers make up most of the participants, a result of making this esteemed event more accessible to people of all abilities and interests; and

WHEREAS, The various routes of this walk and run are comprised of the traditional 18-mile run, 3-mile run, and the 3-mile walk; and

WHEREAS, Millions of dollars raised through the years because of this charitable event have helped save countless lives, many of them in Central New York; research and development have remained paramount in combatting heart disease and have resulted in new leases on life for people of all ages who have faced life-and-death situations; and

WHEREAS, This commendable charitable event is an asset to the State of New York, supporting such a widely impactful and important cause, while providing opportunities for community to grow and thrive together for a greater good; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of America's Greatest Heart Run/Walk; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the organizers of America's Greatest Heart Run/Walk of Utica, New York.