

BY: Senator PALUMBO

HONORING Wallace Wilson III upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the New York State High School Football Coaches Association 12th Man Award

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 Wallace Wilson III upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the New York State High School Football Coaches Association 12th Man Award, to be celebrated at the Section XI Dinner on Friday, February 3, 2023, in Verona, New York; and

WHEREAS, The New York State High School Football Coaches Association 12th Man Award is given to an athlete who overcomes adversity or medical hardship, something Wallace Wilson III has seen a lot of since his freshmen year of high school; and

WHEREAS, A Longwood High School football player, Wallace Wilson III was diagnosed with Graves' Disease, a rare autoimmune disorder that affects the thyroid, when he was just 14 years old after his legs began to lock up during a summer workout; he will be honored with this esteemed award for his perseverance, years after being told he might never walk again; and

WHEREAS, Due to this disease and his temporary paralysis, Wallace Wilson III had to relearn how to walk as a freshman in high school; he went to rehab and pushed himself to get back to where he was, all while trying different medications, some of which made him tired and weak; it was during this time, Wally made peace with the fact he may never play football again; and

WHEREAS, Over the next year, Wallace Wilson III overcame much adversity and regained his ability to walk, found the right medication to regulate his thyroid and his body, and battled back with the goal of playing football, the game he has played since sixth grade; and

WHEREAS, During his junior year, just 18 months after not being able to walk, Wallace Wilson III worked himself back into the starting lineup, started all eight games on the defensive side of the ball, and established himself as one of the best linemen in Division 1 football; and

WHEREAS, Today, as a senior, Wallace Wilson III has made the extraordinary move to the offensive line of the ball, where he blocks for one of the best rushing attacks in the county; a truly humble and

remarkable young man, he amassed 27 pancake blocks, and is a vocal leader on the line; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, just playing the game of football after the type of situation Wally has gone through would be a huge accomplishment in itself; to start and play how he has played in the trenches after relearning to walk makes him nothing short of incredible; and

WHEREAS, Wallace Wilson III committed to SUNY Cortland where he will continue to play football and major in special education; and

WHEREAS, A gifted athlete, Wallace Wilson III has become a role model in society as well as the sport of football; his character and achievements stand as a sterling example and inspiration to all who would aspire to greatness; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Wallace Wilson III upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of the New York State High School Football Coaches Association 12th Man Award; and be it further

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