

BY: Senator GRIFFO

COMMEMORATING the 70th Anniversary of Racing at
Vernon Downs Casino Hotel

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize the achievements of those individuals and organizations that contribute substantially to the economic vitality of their communities, thereby enhancing the economic well-being of the entire Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of Racing at Vernon Downs Casino Hotel on Saturday, July 1, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Harness racing debuted at Vernon Downs Casino Hotel on a revolutionary six-furlong oval; the first race on opening night, July 1, 1953, was won by Bob Abbe II; and

WHEREAS, The track, located in Vernon, New York, featured 24 barns, each with 24 stalls and beautiful natural backdrop with hills and sprawling countryside; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, Vernon Downs racing has become known for hosting prestigious stake races and drawing celebrities, like baseball's Mickey Mantle and Whitey Ford, and some of the best equine names, such as Bret Hanover, Ring Eyed Pete, Nevele Pride, Albatross, Niatross, Moni-Maker and Bunny Lake; and

WHEREAS, The company will mark this milestone anniversary with celebrations honoring Vernon Downs' long-running legacy of fast-paced harness racing, ranging from a slate of competitive races on its 7/8-mile oval, to festive entertainment; and

WHEREAS, This year, Vernon Downs' Opening Day is Saturday, April 15, 2023; the day will bring in countless patrons, both first-time excited attendees, and long-time loyal guests, all ready to enjoy the weather, food, deals, and fun that Vernon Downs consistently offers; and

WHEREAS, It is with great pleasure that this Legislative Body acknowledges this exceptional business, its contributions to the local and state economies, and its vibrant role in improving the quality of life in its community, fully confident that it will continue to enjoy the sparkling successes it has experienced thus far; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of Racing at Vernon Downs Casino Hotel; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be

transmitted to Vernon Downs Casino Hotel.