

BY: M. of A. Otis

CONGRATULATING the Rye High School Boys Varsity Football Team for winning the New York State Class B Championship

WHEREAS, The fabled tradition of gridiron success at Rye High School has continued with the Rye Boys Varsity Football Team's victory in the New York State Class B Championship game topping defending champion Maine-Endwell 28-7 at the Carrier Dome in Syracuse, NY on October 3, 2023, capturing the program's fourth state title in its history and its first since 2008; and

WHEREAS, The achievement follows the building of one of the most solid and consistent high school programs in the state, finishing the regular season winning four straight games with a 6-2 record, outscoring opponents 152 to 40, and amassing a staggering 1,507 yards of total offense through an explosive offense and a stingy defense throughout the season; and

WHEREAS, This championship season was made possible with the Garnet combination of explosive offense, big play defense, and physical strength at the line that powered point production and shutting down opponents, strategic muscle that was apparent regardless of the size of opposing teams; and

WHEREAS, The 2023 Garnets used these strengths, play execution, and great game strategy to move through the successive rounds of sectional and state playoff tournament competition against worthy opponents; sectional victories began with an impressive 33-18 victory against Nyack, which was followed by a 41-13 victory over the Ardsley Panthers, and later, a Section 1 Class B Final against Pleasantville with a convincing win of 35-21; and

WHEREAS, Rye's tremendous offense continued to shine in the State Regional Final against Section 9 champion Port Jervise with a victory of 28-14; this was followed by the Class B State Semifinal playoff win over Section 2 champion Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk with a score of 24-10 to clinch their spot in the state championship; and

WHEREAS, The team, finishing the season with an outstanding record of 12-2, including winning their last 10 consecutive games, were loyally and enthusiastically supported by family, fans, friends, and the community at large, all treated to the contact, sights, and sounds of high school football at the highest level; and

WHEREAS, We congratulate the Rye High School Boys Varsity Football Team and its members, James Kennedy; Ameer White; Aka Udeagha; Charlie Garnett; James Lewis; Shepherd Griffiths; Carson Miller; Ian Khemiani; Cam Holler; Jack Acciavatti; Jagger Fenton; Tucker Hess; A.J Miller; Charlie Stevens; Sean Draddy; Connor Brady; Archer Fenton, Ty Ramachandran; Trevor Reno; Ali Alfalahi; Gage Sasse; Vincent Sculti;

Lucas Felshman; Koen Terlouw; Luke Roveto; Nigel Strazzini; Chris Iuliano; Patrick Harrigan; Andrew Wilmarth; Carsten Steinmann; Hunter Gillies; Owen Welburn; Jason Gonzalez; Billy Eggers; Owen Saya; Ronan

O'Byrne; Archie Berkery; Charlie Saurack; Justin Porter; Peter Olkhovets; Will Kressler; Charlie Ross; Aidan Mohomedally; Patrick McGuire; Brady Howard; Jack Sheridan; Patrick Hickey; Thomas Anderson; Baobo Chen; Henry Shoemaker; Luke Ontaneda; Ben Stigliano; Jake Kessner; Head Coach Dino Garr; Assistant Coaches, Sean Zemlyak, Tom Proudian and AJ Thompson; Director of Athletics, Susan Reid Dullea, Principal Suzanne Kelly-Short, and Superintendent Dr. Eric Byrne on their outstanding season; and

WHEREAS, Athletic competition instills the values of teamwork, sportsmanship, pride, and accomplishment; led by Rye's outstanding Head Coach, Dino Garr, and by dedicated Assistant Coaches, Sean Zemlyak, Tom Proudian, AJ Thompson, and Director of Athletics, Susan Reid Dullea, their commitment and collaboration with the team's outstanding players combined to make the championship possible and the new page in Rye High football history possible; and

WHEREAS, The season also marked the fourth Rye High School Varsity Football State Championship for Rye's legendary Head Coach, Dino Garr, whose Rye teams have appeared in seven state title games; the team benefiting from Coach Garr's 354 career victories, 10 shy of the state record, and from Coach Garr's reputation for building squads built on the principles of teamwork, preparation, strategy and the belief that every player can be part of an effort that they will remember for the rest of their lives; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate and honor the Rye High School Boys Varsity Football Team on this New York State Title; the winning of a state championship is an enormous achievement, made possible this season through the team's exceptional skill, resiliency, teamwork, and energy, delivered in the spirit of the best collegiate and professional championship football teams; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the members, coaches, and administrators of the Rye High School Boys Varsity Football Team.