

BY: Senator GRIFFO

CONGRATULATING John Clifford upon the occasion of his retirement after 34 years of distinguished service to the Rome Daily Sentinel

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor those distinguished individuals who have rendered faithful, conscientious, and valuable service to their communities and to the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate John Clifford upon the occasion of his retirement after 34 years of dedicated service as a photographer for the Rome Daily Sentinel; and

WHEREAS, John Clifford has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to excellence in journalism through his exceptional skill, keen eye, and steadfast dedication to capturing the people, events, and spirit of Central New York; and

WHEREAS, John Clifford was hired by the Rome Daily Sentinel on November 23, 1992, bringing with him a developing talent and passion for news photography that would flourish over more than three decades of service; and

WHEREAS, Born on October 17, 1962, in Ilion, New York, John Clifford spent his early years in Frankfort before moving to LeRoy; it was at the age of 13 that he first learned the craft of black-and-white photography from his father, laying the foundation for a lifelong vocation; and

WHEREAS, He further cultivated his artistic and technical abilities through the influence of his parents, his studies at Genesee Community College, and his academic achievements at Bowling Green State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication in 1986; and

WHEREAS, John Clifford began his professional career in 1989 at the Suburban News in Spencerport, where he honed his skills in news photography and developed the versatility that would define his career; and

WHEREAS, Over the course of his tenure at the Rome Daily Sentinel, John Clifford has covered an extraordinary breadth of subject matter, from breaking news events such as fires, accidents, and major incidents, to community happenings including political events, agricultural fairs, festivals, and presidential visits; and

WHEREAS, John Clifford's portfolio also includes extensive sports coverage, capturing moments in football, hockey, baseball, soccer, and numerous regional events, as well as compelling feature photography that

documents the everyday lives of residents throughout Central New York; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his work in journalism, John Clifford has pursued a deep interest in nature photography, particularly focusing on the wildlife of the Mohawk Valley, including eagles and migratory birds; his work has been featured in photo shows, and he has shared his knowledge as a guest speaker; and

WHEREAS, A passionate supporter of local motorsports, John Clifford has also become a familiar presence at regional speedways, documenting the excitement of racing and contributing a motorsports column during the racing season; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of his artistic contributions and impact on the community, John Clifford was inducted into the Rome Arts Hall of Fame, a testament to his enduring influence and excellence in the field of photography; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his distinguished career, John Clifford has exemplified professionalism, creativity, and integrity, leaving an indelible mark on the Rome Daily Sentinel and the community it serves; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to acknowledge the significant milestones in the lives of citizens who have contributed so meaningfully to the welfare of their communities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the retirement of John Clifford, thanking him for his 34 years of outstanding service to the Rome Daily Sentinel and extending to him its deepest appreciation and best wishes for a fulfilling and rewarding retirement; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to John Clifford.