

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Dick Bennett upon the occasion of his induction into the Schenectady School District Athletic Hall of Fame on September 14, 2009

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those outstanding athletes who inspired and brought pride to their school and community by achieving outstanding success in competition, 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 Dick Bennett upon the occasion of his induction into the Schenectady School District Athletic Hall of Fame on September 14, 2009; and

WHEREAS, Considered one of the greatest players of the Sig Makofski era, Dick Bennett played varsity basketball at Mont Pleasant High School from 1937 to 1940, finishing with an overall record of 56-4 during his three-year career; he changed his name from Bednarkiewicz to Bennett in 1944; and

WHEREAS, Dick Bennett played on Mont Pleasant High School Basketball Teams that won 37 consecutive games and defeated several college freshman squads; in addition, the team captured League Championships during his junior and senior seasons and the 1938-39 squad went undefeated; and

WHEREAS, After graduating from Mont Pleasant High School, Dick Bennett attended Michigan State and played parts of two seasons at Siena, including being a member of Dan Cunha's first team; and

WHEREAS, A starter on the 1941-42 Siena Men's Basketball Team, Dick Bennett averaged 15 points per game and played a key role in the 37-34 victory over Philadelphia powerhouse Villanova; World War II interrupted his collegiate career and he showed his love for his country by serving proudly in the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, Dick Bennett played pro basketball in the New York State League for the Schenectady Comets in 1946 and later played for the Schenectady Packers in the American Basketball League; and

WHEREAS, A member of the Mont Pleasant Sports Hall of Fame, Dick Bennett also played exhibition games against the Harlem Globetrotters, featuring Goose Tatum and Marques Haynes, and the Rochester Royals; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is pleased to have this opportunity to express its highest admiration for Dick Bennett and to wish him continued success in all of his future endeavors; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Dick Bennett upon the occasion of his induction into the Schenectady School District Athletic Hall of Fame on September 14, 2009; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dick Bennett.