

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Ray Ciancaglini upon the occasion of his induction into the Geneva Sports Hall of Fame

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those exemplary athletes, coaches and administrators who have distinguished themselves through their outstanding commitment, and attained 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 Ray Ciancaglini upon the occasion of his induction into the Geneva Sports Hall of Fame, to be celebrated on Friday, May 11, 2012; and

WHEREAS, A number of sports enthusiasts formed a group to organize a "Hall of Fame" in 1988-1989 to honor past Geneva, New York, athletes and to support present and future athletes; the Geneva Sports Hall of Fame Association came to fruition in June 1989 with the election of officers, and the establishment of a Constitution and By-Laws; and

WHEREAS, Every 18 months the Association holds a banquet to honor and induct into the "Hall of Fame" those athletes, coaches, and contributors who meet the criteria established by the Board of Directors; to qualify one must have attended Geneva High School or DeSales High School and made an outstanding contribution to athletics in the City of Geneva; in addition, candidates must have distinguished themselves and brought honor to their institutions; and

WHEREAS, A graduate of the Geneva High School Class of 1969, Ray Ciancaglini, was an aspiring middleweight boxer from 1966 to 1972, who showed great promise of a successful career; under the tutelage of legendary trainers and heavyweight champions, he was extremely talented and moved up quickly in the boxing world; and

WHEREAS, While Ray Ciancaglini's reputation as a highly regarded boxer grew, so did his reputation for being a man of great character; in 1970, at the prestigious Niagara District (New York/Canada) Golden Gloves Tournament, he was the proud recipient of the Heart Award, an honor bestowed upon the boxer who demonstrates the most resiliency, tenacity, and determination; and

WHEREAS, Unfortunately, early in his boxing career, Ray Ciancaglini endured repeat head trauma, a second-impact injury and was later diagnosed with Dementia Pugilistica, a neurological disorder which often affects career boxers, and ultimately brought a premature end to a promising career; and

WHEREAS, Ray Ciancaglini soon began a 14-year career at Eastman Kodak Company, from which he retired early in 1994 due to complications with his diagnosis; he then turned his sights to his heartfelt mission to help spread the word of the destructive nature of second-impact injuries and to continue in the fight to prevent adolescent and student athletes from suffering repeat head-trauma injuries in contact sports; and

WHEREAS, Dedicated to his community, Ray Ciancaglini uses his personal experiences to raise awareness by educating young athletes about the possible dangers of sports related head injuries by volunteering his time leading vital presentations and seminars at high schools, colleges, and on the radio; in 2011, he was granted the Jerry Flynn Courage Award by the Rochester Boxing Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, The founder of The Second Impact, an educational concussion awareness program aimed at educating student athletes on the repercussions of not addressing concussions properly, Ray Ciancaglini was also instrumental in getting The Concussion Management Awareness Act passed into law; and

WHEREAS, Currently, Ray Ciancaglini resides in Varick, New York, and

serves as the strength and conditioning coach of the New York Collegiate Baseball League Geneva Red Wings Baseball Team; 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; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Ray Ciancaglini upon the occasion of his induction into the Geneva Sports Hall of Fame; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Ray Ciancaglini.