

BY: Senator TEDISCO

HONORING Willie Deane upon the occasion of being inducted into the Schenectady School District Athletic Hall of Fame

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to outstanding athletes who have distinguished themselves through their exceptional performance, 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 Willie Deane upon the occasion of being inducted into the Schenectady School District Athletic Hall of Fame on Monday, September 16, 2019, at Glen Sanders Mansion, Scotia, New York; and

WHEREAS, A four-year basketball starter at Schenectady High School, Willie Deane averaged 23 points, seven rebounds and five assists per game on the 1998 NYSPHSAA Championship team which finished its outstanding season with an overall record of 28-1; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, during the 1998 season, Willie Deane was instrumental in Schenectady High School capturing the Big Ten, Section II and Regional titles; he was named 1998 State Tournament MVP and as an All-Tournament selection in the 1998 Federation Tournament; and

WHEREAS, The recipient of numerous awards and accolades, Willie Deane was named the 1997-98 **Times Union** Player of the Year, 1998 **USA Today** Honorable Mention All-American and McDonald's All-American nominee; he was also named Purdue's John Wooden Team MVP as both a junior and senior; and

WHEREAS, As a 1,500 point scorer in high school, Willie Deane continues to hold the Schenectady High School career scoring record; and

WHEREAS, Willie Deane went on to become a member of the Boston College Basketball Team as a freshman before transferring to Purdue University where he led in scoring, steals, made 3s, 3-point shooting percentage, made free throws and free throws attempted as a junior; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his illustrious college basketball career, Willie Dean led the Big Ten in scoring in overall games in 2001-02, and was named Big Ten Basketball Player of the Week several times; he was also named as one of 36 players on the Senior CLASS Award Watch List and led Purdue in scoring as a senior; and

WHEREAS, Willie Deane was instrumental in the Purdue University Basketball Team advancing to the second round of the 2003 NCAA Tournament; in addition, he played in the 2003 National Association of Basketball Coaches All-Star game in New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, With a successful 15-year career playing pro basketball overseas, Willie Deane won three Bulgarian Championships, one Bulgarian Cup, a French Championship and an Italian Championship; and

WHEREAS, Willie Deane has been an inspiration to countless basketball fans, as well as to the community-at-large, and accordingly merits recognition and applause for his tremendous passion for the game and his competitive spirit; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such outstanding athletic accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Willie Deane upon the occasion of being inducted into the Schenectady School District Athletic Hall of Fame, and for his extraordinary accomplishments which were a tribute to his skill, dedication and commitment; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Willie Deane.