

BY: Senator TEDISCO

HONORING Billy Petrolle posthumously 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 Billy Petrolle posthumously 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, Billy Petrolle was raised in Schenectady, New York, where he attended public school and started boxing as an amateur at just 15 years old; and

WHEREAS, Known as Fargo Express, Billy Petrolle began his illustrious pro boxing career in 1922; once rated as the top challenger for the welterweight, junior-welterweight and lightweight titles, he fought for the World Lightweight Title on November 4, 1932, at Madison Square Garden; and

WHEREAS, With other notable fights against Barney Ross and Kid Berg, Billy Petrolle knocked out Battling Battalino in front of 18,000 fans at Madison Square Garden on March 24, 1932, and defeated Jimmy McLarnin at MSG on November 21, 1930; and

WHEREAS, Participating in ten current or past World Championships, Billy Petrolle won five of them; in addition to fighting 11 bouts at Madison Square Garden, he fought at Yankee Stadium, Boston Garden and Chicago Stadium; and

WHEREAS, Billy Petrolle graced the cover of **The Ring** magazine three times and BoxRec.com lists him as the 47th best welterweight of all time; he was also mentioned in the novel, **Catch-22**; and

WHEREAS, A member of the International Boxing Hall of Fame (Canastota), World Boxing Hall of Fame, **The Ring** magazine Hall of Fame and Minnesota Boxing Hall of Fame, Billy Petrolle is one of three fighting Petrolle brothers named a Schenectady Patroon; and

WHEREAS, Billy Petrolle has been an inspiration to countless boxing fans, as well as to the community-at-large, and accordingly merits recognition and applause for his tremendous passion for the sport 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 Billy Petrolle posthumously 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 the family of Billy Petrolle.