

BY: Senator TEDISCO

COMMENDING Joe Zelezniak upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the Schenectady City School District on September 14, 2020

WHEREAS, Excellence and success in competitive sports can be achieved only through strenuous practice, team play and team spirit, nurtured by dedicated coaching and strategic planning; and

WHEREAS, Athletic competition enhances the moral and physical development of the young people of this State, preparing them for the future by instilling in them the value of teamwork, encouraging a standard of healthy living, imparting a desire for success and developing a sense of fair play and competition; and

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 commend Joe Zelezniak upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the Schenectady City School District to be celebrated at its 23rd Annual Schenectady County Athletic Hall of Fame and Reunion Dinner on Monday, September 14, 2020, at Glen Sanders Mansion Scotia, New York; and

WHEREAS, Joe Zelezniak was known as a triple threat at Mont Pleasant High School, lettering in football, baseball and track; and

WHEREAS, This all-county quarterback played on two Class A league championship football teams; he was also the 1969 and 1970 state shot put champion and a two-time sectional champion, and was undefeated as a junior and senior in the indoor and outdoor shot put; today, he still holds the official Section II shot put record with a distance of 62'3"; and

WHEREAS, Joe Zelezniak was the 1969 Eastern States shot put and discus champion, and in 1970, he finished second in the New York State discus competition, and was a two-time sectional discus champion setting the record that year; he also won the Eddy Meet shot put twice and discus once; and

WHEREAS, At the time of his graduation, Joe Zelezniak was the fifth best shot putter and eighth best discus thrower in New York State history; and

WHEREAS, Joe Zelezniak also enjoyed a very successful career after

high school; he was once ranked as the number one shot putter in the Eastern United States, set the shot put record in many meets, and won multiple Millrose Games and Dartmouth Relays; and

WHEREAS, This exceptional international athlete finished third at the Olympic Sports Festival and fifth in the 1981 National Sports Festival, finished second in a United States vs. England dual meet, and represented the United States in the European Indoor Championships, finishing fifth; and

WHEREAS, Joe Zelezniak set the Empire State Games shot put record and won shot put gold medals; in 1981, he finished ninth in the World's Strongest Man competition; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is moved to honor Joe Zelezniak for his extraordinary athletic accomplishments which is a tribute to his skill, dedication and commitment; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Joe Zelezniak upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the Schenectady City School District on September 14, 2020; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Joe Zelezniak.