

BY: Senator TEDISCO

COMMENDING Al Burnham upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the Schenectady City School District Athletic Hall of Fame 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 Al Burnham upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the Schenectady City School District 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, Al Burnham was a standout player on two undefeated Nott Terrace High School football teams; the 1953 team outscored opponents 277-6 and was inducted into the Capital Region Football Hall of Fame in 2019; and

WHEREAS, The 1954 team outscored opponents 193-33, and Al Burnham scored four touchdowns the game against Troy; and

WHEREAS, This exceptional athlete was an all-county halfback in 1954, as well as a tough defensive back and linebacker; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Al Burnham was an outstanding baseball player at Nott Terrace; he batted .500 as a senior and was a member of two league championship teams; he also wrestled as a junior, losing only one match; and

WHEREAS, Al Burnham was a member of the 1953 Niskayuna Post 1092 New York State American Legion Junior Baseball Championship team, and in 1955, he was selected as the Junior Chamber of Commerce Senior Athlete of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Al Burnham was signed by the Dodgers' organization and

played minor league baseball for parts of the 1957 and 1958 seasons; he hit a homerun on the first pitch of his first professional baseball at bat; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, Al Burnham, who was a Schenectady Police Officer for 31 years, was a superb softball player who was asked by pitching icon Eddie Feigner to play with "The King & His Court" touring softball team; 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 commending Al Burnham upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the Schenectady City School District Athletic Hall of Fame on September 14, 2020; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Al Burnham.