

BY: Senator RYAN

CONGRATULATING Rick Jeanneret upon the occasion of his retirement after 51 years of distinguished service to the Buffalo Sabres Hockey Team

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge outstanding sports announcers who distinguish 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 congratulate Rick Jeanneret upon the occasion of his retirement after 51 years of service to the Buffalo Sabres Hockey Team; and

WHEREAS, Currently the longest-tenured broadcaster in hockey, Rick Jeanneret will retire after his final call when the Buffalo Sabres host the Chicago Blackhawks on Friday, April 29, 2022; and

WHEREAS, A native of St. Catharines, Ontario, Rick "RJ" Jeanneret began his long career as a sports broadcaster in 1963, when he filled in for the regular announcer at a Niagara Falls Flyers (Junior A) game; he went on to become the color analyst for one season before moving to the play-by-play position in 1965; and

WHEREAS, Rick Jeanneret became the Buffalo Sabres' radio play-by-play announcer on October 10, 1971, and in 1995, he began calling the action for the team's televised games as well; and

WHEREAS, Known as the voice of the Buffalo Sabres, Rick Jeanneret's memorable calls and player nicknames have become forever linked with the club's history for generations of fans, from "May Day" to "La-La-La-La-La-La-Fontaine" to "Scary Good" to "Top Shelf, Where Momma Hides the Cookies"; and

WHEREAS, For his steadfast and unrelenting commitment to his profession, Rick Jeanneret was the recipient of numerous awards and accolades including the prestigious 2012 Foster Hewitt Memorial Award; he was recognized by the Hockey Hall of Fame in November of 2012, and inducted into the Sabres Hall of Fame in 2011, and the Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame in 2012; and

WHEREAS, On April 1, 2022, before the game against the Nashville Predators, a banner bearing Rick Jeanneret's name was raised to the KeyBank Center rafters alongside other Sabres legends before an enthusiastic, sold-out crowd which included his family, past and present broadcast partners, owners Terry and Kim Pegula, and more than 30 former Sabres players; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his career, spanning over five decades, Rick Jeanneret will always be remembered for his distinctive voice and for

his knowledge and passion for the game of hockey; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Sandra, and their two sons, Mark and Chris, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, During his tenure with the Buffalo Sabres Hockey Team, Rick Jeanneret truly earned the admiration, esteem and affection of his colleagues; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Rick Jeanneret upon the occasion of his retirement after 51 years of distinguished service to the Buffalo Sabres Hockey Team, and to wish him great success in all his future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Rick Jeanneret.