

**BY:** Senator O'MARA

**CONGRATULATING** Ray Lawson upon the occasion of being named Boys Cross Country Coach of the Year for New York State by US Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association

**WHEREAS,** It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality of life in the communities across this great State of New York is enriched by the diligence and compassionate commitment of those individuals whose singular purpose is the care and welfare of our student athletes; and

**WHEREAS,** Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Ray Lawson upon the occasion of being named Boys Cross Country Coach of the Year for New York State by US Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association; and

**WHEREAS,** As the Corning Hawks Cross Country Head Coach, Ray Lawson led the Corning Boys Cross Country Team to a New York State Championship in November of 2016 for the first time in school history, and won the fifth consecutive Southern Tier Athletic Conference title and Section IV title for Corning; and

**WHEREAS,** In addition to the team's excellence on the course, Ray Lawson's boys and girls teams both earned academic All-Star honors for the fall season, which requires a combined academic average of 90 or better from at least 75 percent of the roster; and

**WHEREAS,** In 2021, under the able leadership of Coach Ray Lawson, the Boys and Girls Cross Country Teams captured the Southern Tier Athletic Conference Championships, the Section IV Championships, and the Class A State Championships; and

**WHEREAS,** Furthermore, Jack Gregorski won Cross Country States and qualified for individual Nationals, and his daughter, Sarah Lawson, earned a spot on the podium at States; and

**WHEREAS,** Ray Lawson's positive demeanor, selfless commitment, and caring concern have contributed to his enduring success as a coach and mentor, earning him the just respect and admiration of his community, his peers, and the athletes he has so ably coached; and

**WHEREAS,** Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Coach Ray Lawson has shown to not only the Hawks Cross Country program, but to the Corning-Painted Post Area School District at large; his commitment to bettering the lives and skills of all those who he has coached, is truly exemplary and shall be applauded by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Ray Lawson upon the occasion of being named Boys Cross Country Coach of the Year for New York State by US Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Coach Ray Lawson.