

BY: Senator GRIFFO

COMMEMORATING the 95th Anniversary of WIBX

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to those illustrious networks which have worked diligently and consistently, year after year, to bring quality programming to their communities as well as local news and news of the larger world to their listeners; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 95th Anniversary of WIBX; and

WHEREAS, Through its programming, WIBX of Utica, New York, has strived to inform, educate and empower the citizens of the Mohawk Valley and surrounding areas for over nine decades, making it one of the oldest radio stations in the state; and

WHEREAS, WIBX 1460 AM signed onto the air for the first time on December 5, 1925, from the Clark Building in downtown Utica; the following year, it was incorporated and ever since, it has stayed true to its mission of establishing and maintaining a radio sending station and broadcasting by radio, music, entertainment, speeches, advertising matter, and radio messages of all kinds; and

WHEREAS, In the 1930s, WIBX was an affiliate of the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) and broadcasted programs from the Golden Age of Radio including dramas, comedies, soap operas and sports, and newscasts which appeared at the top and bottom of every hour; and

WHEREAS, WIBX became 950 AM and its power increased to 500 watts in 1948, and in the 1950s, "Sportswatch" debuted and continued until 2013; through the next couple of decades, the station was known for its Middle of the Road (MOR) format which included a mixture of music and personality, sports, nationally syndicated programs and news; and

WHEREAS, WIBX switched gears in the late-1980s, and moved to the news-talk format featuring Rush Limbaugh's nationally syndicated program and became affiliated with Fox News Radio; and

WHEREAS, Today, WIBX's lineup consists of "First News with Keeler in the Morning", followed by Brian Kilmeade, Rush Limbaugh and Sean Hannity; during the evening hours, people tune into "Eyewitness News," the "Best of Keeler," Larry Elder, "When Radio Was," and "Coast to Coast AM"; and

WHEREAS, A vital part of the 21st Century, WIBX also offers live streaming and a mobile app and its website is ranked among the top performers in the region; and

WHEREAS, In a world where new knowledge is acquired each and every

day, WIBX has truly established itself as an integral proponent of community awareness and involvement; as it moves into the future, it carries with it the legacy of a distinguished broadcasting history and an outstanding record of growth and achievement; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 95th Anniversary of WIBX, fully confident that it will continue to enjoy the sparkling successes it has experienced thus far; and be it further

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