Senate Resolution No. 1102

BY: Senator GRIFFO

HONORING JoAnn Hagen posthumously upon the occasion of being inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame on June 10-11, 2023

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge outstanding athletes who distinguished themselves through their exceptional performance, attaining unprecedented success and the highest level of personal achievement; JoAnn Hagen was one such athlete and her life of athletic achievements inspired others and contributed to the respect and admiration of the sport of boxing; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor JoAnn Hagen upon the occasion of being inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame at Hall of Fame Weekend on June 10-11, 2023 in Canastota, New York; and

WHEREAS, Born as JoAnn Verhagen in South Bend, Indiana, JoAnn Hagen was working at the Bendix brake manufacturing factory, when she hit a co-worker who was threatening her with uninvited advances and the incident was witnessed by the brother of local boxing promoter Johnny Nate; before long, she was a regular at his boxing gym; and

WHEREAS, JoAnn Hagen competed in matches throughout the Midwest; in 1954, she made history as the only boxer to defeat Barbara Buttrick when she scored an eight-round decision in front of 1,200 fans in Calgary, Alberta, Canada in the first women's bout to be broadcast over the radio; and

WHEREAS, Making major media appearances including the popular game show "What's My Line?" and "The Steve Allen Show," JoAnn Hagen helped female boxing's profile; and

WHEREAS, After retiring in 1956, JoAnn Hagen enlisted in the Marine Corps and lived in South Bend until she passed away in 2004 at the age of 73; and

WHEREAS, JoAnn Hagen clearly made a contribution to the spirit of excellence which is a tradition of the International Boxing Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense 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 honor JoAnn Hagen posthumously upon the occasion of being inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame on June 10-11, 2023; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of JoAnn Hagen.