Senate Resolution No. 2313

BY: Senator TEDISCO

HONORING James D. Thomas, Jr. upon the occasion of his induction into the Schenectady School District Athletic Hall of Fame

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to outstanding athletes who have distinguished 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 honor James D. Thomas, Jr. upon the occasion of his induction into the Schenectady School District Athletic Hall of Fame on Monday, September 16, 2024, at The Event Center at Rivers Casino & Resort, Schenectady, New York; and

WHEREAS, An extremely valuable player as a junior on the 1998 Schenectady High School State championship basketball team that finished with a record of 28-1; James D. Thomas, Jr. averaged 14 points & 12 rebounds securing a place on the All Area 1st Team, and 1998 NYSPHSAA All-Tournament team; and

WHEREAS, James D. Thomas, Jr. forged a stellar collegiate basketball career as a four-year starter at the University of Texas where he was selected as one of the "15 Best Longhorns of All-Time," becoming only the second player in school history to record 1,000 career points and 1,000 career rebounds; and

WHEREAS, During his sophomore season, the Texas Longhorns finished 22-12, reached the Sweet 16, and he made the NCAA Midwest Regional All-Tournament team; and

WHEREAS, As a junior, James D. Thomas, Jr. led Texas to a No. 3 ranking in the ESPN/USA Today final coaches' poll and was the 10th leading rebounder in the nation, leading Texas to its first Final Four appearance in 56 years as the team finished the season with an overall record of 26-7; and

WHEREAS, James D. Thomas, Jr. was an All-Big 12 Conference 2nd Team selection in addition to being recognized as a member of the All-Big 12 Defensive Team prompting legendary basketball coach Bobby Knight to say, "Jim Thomas might be my favorite player in the Big Twelve. He gives it his all every time he goes on the court"; and

WHEREAS, Following his college career, James D. Thomas, Jr. became the 2004-05 National Basketball Development League Rookie of the Year; one year later, the 2005-06 CBA Newcomer of the Year; and

WHEREAS, James D. Thomas, Jr. played in 33 NBA games with the Portland Trailblazers, Atlanta Hawks, Philadelphia 76ers, and the

Chicago Bulls, in addition to having a successful career playing professionally overseas in Italy, Israel and Turkey; and

WHEREAS, A member of the Upstate New York Basketball Hall of Fame, James D. Thomas, Jr. has been an inspiration to countless basketball fans, as well as to the community-at-large, and accordingly merits recognition and applause for his tremendous passion for the game and his competitive spirit; 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 honor James D. Thomas, Jr. upon the occasion of his induction into the Schenectady School District Athletic Hall of Fame, and for his extraordinary accomplishments which were a tribute to his skill, dedication and commitment; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to James D. Thomas, Jr.