

Assembly Resolution No. 1540

BY: M. of A. Buttenschon

COMMEMORATING the 4th Annual Riggie Run, Walk & Riggiefest, to be held on October 11, 2026

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those events which strengthen communities, celebrate local traditions, and advance worthy charitable causes; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 4th Annual Riggie Run, Walk & Riggiefest, to be held on Sunday, October 11, 2026, at the campus of SUNY Polytechnic Institute; and

WHEREAS, Hosted by Sitrin Health Care Center, the Riggie Run has quickly become one of the Mohawk Valley's most distinctive and anticipated community events, bringing together runners, walkers, families, veterans, local businesses, and residents in support of an important mission; and

WHEREAS, The event serves as a major fundraiser for Sitrin's Military Program, which provides comprehensive and complimentary care to post-9/11 veterans and service members facing challenges such as post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injuries, depression, suicidal ideations, and other combat-related conditions; and

WHEREAS, Through innovative treatment programs and community-based initiatives, Sitrin's Military Program helps veterans and service members heal, reconnect, and successfully transition to civilian life while fostering camaraderie and support among those who have served our Nation; and

WHEREAS, The 4th Annual Riggie Run, Walk & Riggiefest will feature a 5K Run, 5K Riggie Challenge, 5K Wheelchair Race, 5K Wheelchair Riggie Challenge, 2-Mile Walk, and a 1-Mile Kids Run, providing opportunities for participants of all ages and abilities to take part in this meaningful event; and

WHEREAS, A hallmark of the event is the beloved Riggie Challenge, which celebrates the Mohawk Valley's rich culinary heritage by challenging participants to enjoy a serving of the region's famous chicken riggies during the race; and

WHEREAS, Following the race, local restaurants and culinary establishments will gather for the annual Riggiefest, showcasing their own interpretations of the iconic Utica dish and further highlighting the area's vibrant culture, creativity, and sense of community; and

WHEREAS, The Riggie Run, Walk & Riggiefest not only promotes health, fitness, and fellowship, but also serves as a powerful reminder of the community's commitment to honoring and supporting the brave men and

women who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States; and

WHEREAS, The continued success and growth of this event reflects the generosity of sponsors, volunteers, organizers, participants, and community members whose dedication has helped establish the Riggie Run as a signature Mohawk Valley tradition; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 4th Annual Riggie Run, Walk & Riggiefest, applauding its celebration of local heritage, promotion of community spirit, and steadfast support for veterans and service members; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the organizers of the 4th Annual Riggie Run, Walk & Riggiefest.