Assembly Resolution No. 710

BY: M. of A. Buttenschon

HONORING Melissa D'Antonio O'Rourke upon the occasion of her induction into the Rome Sports Hall of Fame on July 27, 2025

WHEREAS, It is the custom 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 Melissa D'Antonio O'Rourke upon the occasion of her induction into the Rome Sports Hall of Fame, to be celebrated on July 27, 2025; and

WHEREAS, A gifted multi-sport athlete at Rome Free Academy (RFA), Melissa D'Antonio O'Rourke played a pivotal role in securing sectional titles for the Black Knights in both alpine skiing and softball, but it was in the sport of field hockey that she truly distinguished herself as one of the region's elite athletes; and

WHEREAS, As a three-time Onondaga High School League All-Star and record-setting goalkeeper, Melissa D'Antonio O'Rourke's performance was nothing short of extraordinary; her 199 saves during the 1988 season remain a Rome Free Academy record and a testament to her skill, focus, and tenacity; and

WHEREAS, Melissa D'Antonio O'Rourke's dominance in the net earned her a scholarship to Miami University (Ohio), where she continued to excel, setting the school record for career save percentage (0.877), leading the Mid-American Conference (MAC) in total saves in multiple seasons, and earning All-MAC Academic honors in 1993 for her achievements in both athletics and academics; and

WHEREAS, After graduation, Melissa D'Antonio O'Rourke served as a goalkeepers coach at Central Michigan University, before returning to her hometown of Rome, where she dedicated herself to educating and mentoring young people as a teacher of physical education and health, and as a devoted volunteer coach; and

WHEREAS, Melissa D'Antonio O'Rourke's coaching legacy is as distinguished as her playing career; she mentored numerous all-league and all-state field hockey players and helped lead RFA to Section III championships in 2004 and 2005; and

WHEREAS, In addition to field hockey, Melissa D'Antonio O'Rourke successfully coached both boys and girls varsity golf teams to sectional championships, and has developed multiple sectional and New York State champions in alpine skiing, demonstrating her versatility, leadership, and commitment to excellence across sports; and

WHEREAS, Admired not only for her athletic knowledge but also for her philosophy of coaching-centered on developing leaders on and off the field-Melissa D'Antonio O'Rourke has earned the respect and gratitude of students, athletes, and fellow educators alike; and

WHEREAS, Melissa D'Antonio O'Rourke's induction into the Rome Sports Hall of Fame reflects not only a lifetime of athletic excellence but also a lasting legacy of mentorship, sportsmanship, and community impact; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Melissa D'Antonio O'Rourke upon the occasion of her induction into the Rome Sports Hall of Fame on July 27, 2025, and to commend her for her distinguished achievements as an athlete, educator, and coach; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Melissa D'Antonio O'Rourke.