

2013-K713

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the six honorees upon the occasion of being inducted into the Rome Sports Hall of Fame on July 28, 2013

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those exemplary athletes, coaches, and administrators who have distinguished themselves and their schools through outstanding commitment, 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 the six honorees upon the occasion of being inducted into the Rome Sports Hall of Fame on July 28, 2013; and

WHEREAS, The six distinguished inductees are: Anthony F. Abone, Peter V. Arnold, Ellen Potocki Liss, Jim Pinti, Thomas J. Rakowski, and Joe Sherman; and

WHEREAS, Anthony Abone, a talented baseball player in his own right, has gone on to excel in the sport as a coach; in his high school days at RFA, he was an all-state player, batting over .500 in his senior year as an infielder and being honored as the team's most valuable player; he went to Le Moyne College in Syracuse, where he was an all-star and made two appearances in the Division II College World Series, winning the championship in 1979; and

WHEREAS, Peter Arnold quickly established himself as one of city's outstanding young athletes and by the time he graduated from RFA in 1965, he had been an all-star tight end in football, a record-setting basketball player who scored 429 points in one season and once grabbed 42 rebounds in one game, and a track and field champion in the triple jump; in his senior year he was honored with the Joe Borden Award given to RFA's most outstanding male student-athlete and was a high school

honorable mention All-America basketball selection; he went on to continue his successful sports career at Hartwick College, where he played basketball and served as a team co-captain his senior year and was also a member of the track and field squad whose events included the shot put, discus throw and triple jump; and

WHEREAS, Ellen Potocki Liss is perhaps the most successful female swimmer in the history of RFA; she developed her skills on YMCA travel teams, and as a seventh-grader joined the RFA varsity and went on to establish herself as one of the best swimmers in the area, breaking records throughout; after gaining prep school All-America honors at Mercersburg Academy, Pennsylvania, where she also played water polo and tennis, she accepted a scholarship to Syracuse University and was chosen a NCAA Division I Academic All-American swimmer and was team captain in her senior year; and

WHEREAS, Jim Pinti was a force on the high school level as a four-year starting hockey defenseman for RFA; a team captain, he was a key player in the late 1980s when the Black Knights captured two state championships and drew national media attention with a 49-game winning streak; after graduating from high school, he later went on to SUNY Fredonia, where he was a four-year starter and team captain in his junior and senior years, helping Fredonia reach the Division III national semi-finals and compile a record of 29-1-4 in his last season; and

WHEREAS, Tom Rakowski was among the leading performers for the dominant RFA football teams of the 1960s; he was a two-way interior lineman for the Black Knights who lettered for three years, and never lost a game while on the varsity as his teams went 24-0 over the 1965-1967 seasons; he was also was a talented wrestler and track and field athlete, who after high school went on to attend Cornell, where he wrestled and played football and was an all-Ivy League defensive tackle in his senior year when he helped lead the Big Red to an 8-1 record and a share of the league championship; and

WHEREAS, Joe Sherman was on the RFA swim team from 1974-1977, where he set school records in the 50 and 100 freestyles, 200 medley relay along with the 400 freestyle relay, and served as team captain in his junior and senior years; he went on to attend Niagara University, where a shoulder injury ended his swimming career and after graduating in 1982 with a degree in physical education, he returned to Rome and was hired as the Rome Family Y's director of aquatic services, and would also coach the RFA girls gymnastics team; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the six honorees upon the occasion of being inducted into the Rome Sports Hall of Fame; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the aforementioned honorees.