

## 2013-J3543

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring John Spillett upon the occasion of his induction into the SAMMYS Hall of Fame as Music Educator of the Year

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor and recognize those talented individuals within our midst who have had a significant impact on the arts and the culture of our communities, by providing outstanding entertainment and instruction in the field of music; one such individual is John Spillett; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to hereby honor and recognize John Spillett upon his induction into the Syracuse Area Music Awards (SAMMYS) Hall of Fame as Music Educator of the Year; and

WHEREAS, The SAMMYS were established in 1993 to annually recognize and honor Syracuse's most prominent musicians and music educators, aiming to bring these individuals to the forefront of public attention; and

WHEREAS, Syracuse native John Spillett received his Master of Music degree in saxophone performance from Northwestern University and his Bachelor of Music Education degree with performance honors from the Syracuse University School of Music; and

WHEREAS, On October 10, 1978, John Spillett began his accomplished career in music education as a teacher and band director at Solvay High School, where he would teach instrumental music for more than three decades until retiring on June 30, 2011; and

WHEREAS, During his tenure at Solvay High School, John Spillett taught all instrumental music classes, helped design the Solvay High School instrumental music suite, and chaired the Bands and Music Department for the Solvay School District; and

WHEREAS, At Solvay High School, one of John Spillett's most notable

accomplishments was his successful development of Jazz Combo, which served as an advanced course equivalent to college level instruction and is one of only a few credit-bearing courses of its kind in the nation; Jazz Combo has received numerous state and regional awards for musical excellence; and

WHEREAS, John Spillett, was also instrumental in organizing Solvay High School's annual "Jazz Night," which has featured the performances of various well-renowned jazz musicians and educators, such as saxophonist and composer, Joe Riposo; and

WHEREAS, Under his leadership, Solvay High School's student ensembles performed at numerous community events in the Village of Solvay, Town of Geddes and Syracuse area, serving approximately 40 school and community organizations; and

WHEREAS, In addition to high school, John Spillett served for nine years as an adjunct professor at Le Moyne College, where he directed Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Combo, Flute Ensemble, taught Jazz Improvisation and private saxophone lessons, and took an important leadership role in the early development of the college's instrumental music program; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, John Spillett has developed his own successful saxophone studio, called John Spillett Saxophone/Woodwind Studio, at which he has privately mentored more than 100 students, many of whom have received gold ratings from the New York State School Music Association Conference All State Ensembles and have gone on to achieve full-time careers in music; and

WHEREAS, A veteran studio saxophone instructor for more than three decades, John Spillett has extensive teaching experience in classical, jazz and contemporary saxophone styles, always encouraging hard work and student creativity; and

WHEREAS, Presently, John Spillett leads his own successful jazz band with a long history of professional performing experience in Central New York and beyond; he has performed at more than 2,000 professional

engagements; and

WHEREAS, John Spillett's legendary career has been defined by, but not limited to, numerous achievements that include: 2009 New York State Music Educator Honoree for School Band and Orchestra magazine's "50 Directors Who Make A Difference" and 2010 Syracuse Symphony Musician's Outstanding Music Educator Award in the instrumental band category; and WHEREAS, Adding to his long list of achievements, John Spillett will be inducted into the Syracuse Area Music Awards (SAMMYS) Hall of Fame as Music Educator of the Year during an induction ceremony on March 6, 2014; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to hereby honor and recognize John Spillett upon the occasion of his induction into the SAMMYS Hall of Fame as Music Educator of the Year; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to John Spillett.