

2013-J3825

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Duanesburg High School Varsity Wrestling Coach Joe Bena upon the occasion of his retirement after 48 distinguished years in coaching

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to act, in accord with its long-standing traditions, to commend notable athletic coaches who serve the youth of this great Empire State, and who have distinguished themselves and their schools through outstanding commitment and exemplary athletic achievement; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Duanesburg High School Varsity Wrestling Coach Joe Bena upon the occasion of his retirement after 48 distinguished years in coaching; and

WHEREAS, Joe Bena has remarkably used his classroom to teach lessons of wrestling for nearly half a century; he has mentored collegiate all-Americans and three Olympians, and although his career is coming to an end, his legacy and never ending commitment and support to his students will live on; and

WHEREAS, Upon his graduation from high school, Joe Bena joined the United States Navy at just 17 years old; he was discharged in 1959, and earned his AAS in Automotive Technology from Hudson Valley Community College; and

WHEREAS, Continuing his education, Joe Bena earned a Bachelor's degree in Industrial Arts Education from SUNY Oswego, as well as a Master's in Administration from Central Connecticut College; and

WHEREAS, Joe Bena started working as a Manual Arts Therapist at a Veterans Administration Psychiatric Hospital in Westchester County after his graduation, and two years later began his teaching career; and

WHEREAS, An Industrial Arts Teacher in the Newburgh School System from

1965 to 1968, Joe Bena also coached the school's wrestling team for two years; in 1968, he began both teaching and coaching in the Niskayuna School District where he remained until his retirement from teaching in 2001; and

WHEREAS, Joe Bena continued coaching the Niskayuna Wrestling Team until 2003 when he began as the Duaneburg High School Varsity Wrestling coach; in his more than 10 years with the team, they have remained undefeated in the Western Athletic Conference; and

WHEREAS, In addition to coaching, Joe Bena runs a summer youth wrestling camp at the DACC, is active in a British Car Club, and does volunteer work at his church, as well as the Schenectady City Mission; and

WHEREAS, Joe Bena has received countless honors and accolades throughout his illustrious career; he is in the New York State Wrestling Coaches Hall of Fame, the Section II Hall of Fame for Coaching, and the National Coaches Hall of Fame in Stillwater, New York; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, he is in the Athletic Hall of Fame at his alma mater, SUNY Oswego, has won more matches than any other coach in New York State, and is listed in the top 20 most wins in the nation; and

WHEREAS, A true asset to society, Coach Joe Bena has educated and touched the lives of many students during his tenure; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, Lois, their four children and six grandchildren, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Coach Joe Bena's positive demeanor, selfless commitment, and caring concern have contributed to his enduring success as a coach and mentor, earning him the just respect and admiration of his community, his peers, and the athletes he has so ably coached; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Duaneburg High School Varsity Wrestling Coach Joe Bena upon the occasion of his retirement after 48 distinguished years in coaching; and

be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Coach Joe Bena.