

2013-J4114

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending legendary track announcer James J. Moran upon the occasion of his retirement after 50 years of distinguished service to Vernon Downs

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to take note of and publicly acknowledge individuals who have distinguished themselves through their exemplary careers, accomplishments, and purposeful lives of service to their community and their profession; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend legendary track announcer James J. Moran upon the occasion of his retirement after 50 years of distinguished service to Vernon Downs; and

WHEREAS, Announcer Emeritus Moran, a member of the Communicators Hall of Fame, will call his final race at Vernon Downs to kick off the Opening Night program on Friday, April 11, 2014; this auspicious evening, capping a 50-year legacy of James J. Moran's describing the races at Vernon, will be a celebration of what he brought to the Central New York track, with a poster giveaway, tributes, and a meet-and-greet throughout the card; and

WHEREAS, The Hall of Fame voice first started working at Vernon Downs in 1962 when he took a job as Clerk of Course; he soon became the Assistant Race Secretary and began calling races part time; and

WHEREAS, In 1964, James J. Moran took over the full-time racecalling job from his uncle and mentor, Bud Hebert; and

WHEREAS, In addition, James J. Moran served as Director of Publicity and Public Relations, as well as coordinated the track's marketing activities; and

WHEREAS, Through more than 75,000 races, James J. Moran has called the most memorable races at Vernon Downs and has witnessed some of the

sport's legendary horses including Bret Hanover, Niatross and Deweycheatumnhowe; and

WHEREAS, James J. Moran was also privileged to make the call when Vernon native Brian Sears steered My Little Dragon and broke the track record, pacing the first ever sub-1.50 mile in the long and storied history of Vernon Downs; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his esteemed career, each race began with his synonymous phrase, "Heeeere they come!"; and

WHEREAS, James J. Moran is a 2010 inductee to the Harness Racing Hall of Fame's Communicator's Corner, and a 2003 inductee to the Greater Syracuse Sports Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of his dedication, commitment and efforts on behalf of his community and his profession, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to extend its highest commendation to James J. Moran; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the quality of life in their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to the maintenance of high standards in their profession, certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend legendary track announcer James J. Moran upon the occasion of his retirement after 50 years of distinguished service to Vernon Downs, and to wish him the best in all his future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to James J. Moran.