

## 2013-K1143

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Frank DuRoss and Robert Esche upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the 2013 Business Person of the Year Award by the Greater Utica Chamber of Commerce

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor those illustrious individuals and institutions of the State of New York whose purposeful endeavors serve to enhance the quality of life in their communities; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its longstanding traditions, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend Frank DuRoss and Robert Esche upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the 2013 Business Person of the Year Award by the Greater Utica Chamber of Commerce, to be celebrated at its Annual Membership Meeting luncheon on Tuesday, April 22, 2014, at Hart's Hill Inn in Whitesboro, New York; and

WHEREAS, Frank DuRoss and Robert Esche are the co-owners/partners of the Utica Comets American Hockey League Team; together, they will receive this auspicious award for their efforts in bringing a successful American Hockey League franchise back to Utica, New York; and

WHEREAS, Frank DuRoss, Chairman of the Utica Comets American Hockey League Team, has a history of business success and community connections for more than 25 years; he has been a professional sports team owner for much of that time, beginning with the Mohawk Valley Stars ice hockey team; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Frank DuRoss was President of the Utica Devils, and Co-owner of the Maine Mariners, later known as the Calder Cup winning Providence Bruins; and

WHEREAS, With his professional behavior, corporate innovation, and enduring commitment to his community, Frank DuRoss has owned or started

18 successful business ventures including the Rochester Rhinos Soccer Team, DuRoss Realty Corp., Oneida Asbestos Removal, and Oneida Building Services; and

WHEREAS, Robert Esche, President of the Utica Comets American Hockey League Team, was a goaltender for the Phoenix Coyotes from 1998 until 2002, and then for the Philadelphia Flyers from 2002 until 2007; and

WHEREAS, In 2003, he teamed up with Roman Cechmanek, and won the William N. Jennings Trophy, which is awarded to the goalkeeper who has played a minimum of 25 games for the team with the fewest goals scored against it; and

WHEREAS, During his illustrious professional hockey career, Robert Esche represented the United States as goalkeeper at the World Cup of Hockey, and again in the Ice Hockey World Championships for several years, as well as tending goal in Torino during the 2006 Winter Olympics; and

WHEREAS, After completing his professional career with teams in the former Soviet Union and Switzerland, Robert Esche returned home to begin several business ventures including Aqua Vino Restaurant, Esche's Family Farms, and in the spring of 2013, the Mohawk Valley Garden, as well as Utica Comets American Hockey League team; and

WHEREAS, Frank DuRoss and Robert Esche have been called upon to contribute their time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and have always given of themselves unstintingly; and

WHEREAS, Robert Esche founded the Save of the Day Foundation and has raised a significant amount of funds for terminally ill children in the Mohawk Valley; his main initiative is promoting healthy and happy lifestyles for local youth; Frank DuRoss is a member of the American Hockey League Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, With their proven business leadership abilities and their evident dedication to their community, Frank DuRoss and Robert Esche are the quintessential selection for the prestigious "Business Person of the

Year" Award; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, it is appropriate to publicly proclaim and commend those individuals for the edification and emulation of others; now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Frank DuRoss and Robert Esche upon the occasion of their designation as recipients of the 2013 Business Person of the Year Award by the Greater Utica Chamber of Commerce; and be it further RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Frank DuRoss and Robert Esche.