

2013-J5556

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Joe LaRuffa upon the occasion of his induction into the Fallsburg Central School District Hall of Fame

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those distinguished citizens who devote their time and energies to the service of their community and profession, participating in civic affairs and enhancing the character and quality of life for all citizens; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Joe LaRuffa upon the occasion of his induction into the Fallsburg Central School District Hall of Fame; the Induction Ceremony will take place at the High School Graduation Ceremony, on Sunday, June 29, 2014; and

WHEREAS, The Fallsburg Central School District Hall of Fame honors those members of its community who have made extraordinary contributions and experienced exceptional success, recognizing individuals who exemplify the highest standards of citizenship, leadership, ethical conduct, and moral character; and

WHEREAS, Retired long-time educator Joe LaRuffa is such an individual; during and after his illustrious 30-year tenure as a music teacher, this dedicated man had a tremendous impact on music education in his district and the State of New York, and transformed the lives of hundreds of Fallsburg Central School District (FCSD) students; and

WHEREAS, Joe LaRuffa graduated from Oyster Bay High School in 1940; he earned a bachelor's degree from New York University and a master's degree from Columbia University, and served his country as a member of the United States Army during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Joe LaRuffa taught music in the Fallsburg Central School District from 1954 to 1984, and directed the FCSD Band through 22 band

competitions; from 1955 to 1968 the band received ratings of A and higher; and

WHEREAS, In addition, under Joe LaRuffa's directorship, the FCSD Band played at the commencement ceremony for Sullivan County Community College in 1965, and had the honor of playing for President Lyndon Johnson in 1966; and

WHEREAS, Joe LaRuffa won the Outstanding Secondary Educator Award in 1975; and

WHEREAS, A committed educator who thought beyond the bounds of his community, Joe LaRuffa created the Empire State Music Camp in Hurleyville, New York, in the early 1960s; and

WHEREAS, He also served as the Fundraising Chairman of the Hertz Scholarship, which later became the Hertz-LaRuffa Scholarship; for 40 years he raised funds for this worthy endeavor, which provided much needed financial support to many FCSD students; and

WHEREAS, Joe LaRuffa served the larger community in other ways; he was Secretary of the Hurleyville Fire Department from 1961 to 1972, and served as a Town of Fallsburg Councilman from 1969 to 1985; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of his professional and community service, a period of constructive involvement, Joe LaRuffa has stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Joe LaRuffa has displayed throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their profession and community, and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence, certainly

have earned the recognition and applause of all citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Joe LaRuffa upon the occasion of his induction into the Fallsburg

Central School District Hall of Fame; and be it further

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