

2013-J5741

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Thomas LaPuma upon the occasion of his induction into the Greater Utica Sports Hall of Fame on June 8, 2014

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to outstanding athletes who have distinguished themselves through their exceptional performance, attaining unprecedented success and the highest level of personal achievement; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Thomas LaPuma upon the occasion of his induction into the Greater Utica Sports Hall of Fame, to be celebrated on Sunday, June 8, 2014, at the Radisson Hotel-Utica Centre, Utica, New York; and

WHEREAS, A resident of Frankfort, New York, Thomas LaPuma was instrumental in developing the intercollegiate athletic program at Herkimer County Community College (HCCC) as well as the physical education curriculum, fitness center and intramural sports program; and

WHEREAS, Thomas LaPuma was hired as an instructor of Physical Education in 1970, and retired as Professor Emeritus in 2003; he served as Director of Athletics from 1974 to 1990; and

WHEREAS, During his 33 year tenure, Thomas LaPuma coached men's lacrosse, women's soccer, women's tennis, women's softball, men's volleyball, men's golf, men's baseball, men's wrestling and men's bowling; and

WHEREAS, Involved in numerous professional organizations throughout his illustrious career, Thomas LaPuma was a member of the International University Sports Federation (FISU) from 1999 to 2009, and served as the sole United States representative for FISU sponsored World Championships and World University Games from 2001 until 2009; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, from 2005 to 2010, he served as Vice-President

for the Men's Division of the National Junior College Athletic Association; and

WHEREAS, Amongst countless awards and accolades, Thomas LaPuma was awarded the esteemed SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2001, and inducted into the Herkimer County Community College Athletic Hall of Fame on September 30, 2011; and

WHEREAS, In addition, he will also be awarded the HCCC Torchbearer Award in 2014, which is presented by the College Board of Trustees every five years to recognize individuals whose contributions have had a significant and lasting impact on the development and operations of Herkimer College; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is moved to honor Thomas LaPuma for his extraordinary accomplishments which are a tribute to his skill, dedication and commitment; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Thomas LaPuma upon the occasion of his induction into the Greater Utica Sports Hall of Fame on June 8, 2014; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Thomas LaPuma.