

2013-J5743

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Dr. Donald F. Staffo 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 Dr. Donald F. Staffo 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, Dr. Donald F. Staffo began his illustrious career as a Physical Education Teacher, Athletic Director and Coach of boys and girls sports in the public schools throughout New York State; and

WHEREAS, With more than four decades of steadfast dedication to the field of Education, Dr. Donald F. Staffo has served the last 34 years as a Professor as well as Health and Physical Education Department Chairman at Stillman College, where he is the college's longest-running department chair and the only faculty member to be honored with the title Emeritus in the 138-year history of the school; and

WHEREAS, Instrumental in starting Stillman College's Football Program, Dr. Donald F. Staffo has also served as the school's Athletic Director; and

WHEREAS, As athletic director Dr. Donald F. Staffo provided leadership for a program that won four games its first season, had a winning record in its second season, and went on to lead the Nation (NCAA Division III) in attendance in its fourth season; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Donald F. Staffo has the distinction of being only the second person in the United States to receive the three highest national awards given by the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance; he is the recipient of four National, four State, five Distinguished Alumni, one Regional and five Institutional Awards; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, inducted into five Halls of Fame, Dr. Donald F. Staffo is the most and highest honored, as well as the most published and longest running department chair in the history of Stillman College; and

WHEREAS, Prior to coming to Stillman in 1985, Dr. Donald F. Staffo was Director of Physical Education and Athletic Director at Alice Lloyd College (ALC), where he implemented the physical education major, as well as ALC's move into the Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and the National Intercollegiate Athletic Association; and

WHEREAS, Approaching 66 years of age, Dr. Donald F. Staffo remains an avid physical fitness enthusiast and HPE role model; a former age-group modified triathlon winner, he continues to run, bike and swim long distances, as well as play baseball; and

WHEREAS, Recognized by the Alabama House of Representatives and the New York State Senate and Assembly for his career achievements, Dr. Donald F. Staffo is also an award-winning sports journalist; he has authored 10 books, a newspaper column that ran for 21 years, as well as 2,100 articles in international, national, regional and local publications; and

WHEREAS, In addition, he has covered Alabama football and basketball for 30 years for the ASSOCIATED PRESS, TUSCALOOSA NEWS and BAMA

MAGAZINE; for seven years he covered the Southeastern Conference for BASKETBALL TIMES and three years for the GANNET NEWS SERVICE; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is moved to honor Dr. Donald F. Staffo 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 Dr. Donald F. Staffo 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 Dr. Donald F. Staffo.