

2013-J5908

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending legendary track announcer Tom Durkin upon the occasion of his retirement after 43 years of distinguished service to the sport of horse racing

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 Tom Durkin upon the occasion of his retirement after 43 years of distinguished service to the sport of horse racing; and

WHEREAS, Announcer Emeritus Durkin, one of the greatest race-callers in sports history, will call his final race at Saratoga Race Course on Sunday, August 31, 2014, bringing to a close an exceptional 43-year career; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed broadcaster studied theatre at St. Norbert College and began calling races at county fairs in Wisconsin in the summer of 1971; he continued to work at a string of small tracks including Cahokia Downs, Balmoral Race Course, Quad City Downs and Miles Park before landing the job at famed Hialeah Race Course in 1981; and

WHEREAS, In 1984, Tom Durkin was hired as the announcer for the annual Breeders' Cup, a position he held until 2005; he gained further notoriety as the voice of the Triple Crown for a decade beginning in 2001; and

WHEREAS, Tom Durkin's insightful commentary and ability to use his voice to build to a thrilling crescendo were unparalleled; he will long be remembered for such indelible moments as Cigar's victory at the 1995 Breeders' Cup Classic, the 1998 photo finish at Belmont between Victory

Gallop and Real Quiet, and whimsically singing Doremifasollatido's run to victory in a 2008 maiden race; and

WHEREAS, Throughout more than four decades of outstanding calls, Tom Durkin has been a vital part of countless memorable races and has witnessed some of the sport's legendary horses; in addition to his flair for the dramatic, Durkin's sense of humor has stood him in great stead as one of horse racing's most famed personalities; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of his dedication, commitment and efforts on behalf of his community and his profession, it is the intent of this Legislative Body to extend its highest commendation to Tom Durkin; 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 Tom Durkin upon the occasion of his retirement after 43 years of distinguished service to the sport of horse racing, 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 Tom Durkin.