

2013-J6067

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring the 2014 inductees of the Rome Sports Hall of Fame and Museum

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those exemplary athletes, coaches, and administrators who have distinguished themselves and their schools through outstanding commitment, 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 the 2014 inductees of the Rome Sports Hall of Fame and Museum; the 38th Annual Induction Ceremony will take place at the Hall on July 27, 2014; and

WHEREAS, The six distinguished inductees are: Tom P. Zmudosky, Paul Adey, Milton J. Burkhart, Derek F. DeCosty, Steven W. Evans, and Marge Meiss VanSlyke; and

WHEREAS, The late Tom P. Zmudosky established himself as one of the best high school baseball players to ever come out of the Mohawk Valley, compiling a 9-1 pitching record and a .390 batting average in his senior year while earning all-league honors; he would go on to sign a pro baseball contract with the Utica Blue Sox, and was drafted by the Oakland Athletics, spending several years in the minor leagues; after his playing days, he served as a volunteer pitching coach for Smith Post and participated in numerous baseball clinics; and

WHEREAS, Paul Adey was a three-sport athlete at the Rome Free Academy High School (RFA) where as a center on the football team he never lost a game; although a knee injury ended his playing days after high school, after graduating from Utica College he began teaching and coaching at RFA; he became the offensive coordinator at Hamilton College where he,

more than three decades later, oversees 17 sports teams as the head strength and conditioning coach; and

WHEREAS, The late Milton J. Burkhart, one of Rome's all-time leading golfers, won the City Amateur Golf Tournament as a 17-year-old in 1932, and earned two more city golf crowns the next two years; after serving in the United States Army during World War II, he built and operated a driving range on Oriskany Road and, 20 years later, opened the Oriskany Hills Golf Course which he and his family operated from 1962 until his death in 1986; he was also a golf instructor, encouraging youngsters to take up the game by offering free lessons; and

WHEREAS, Hockey player Derek F. DeCosty is regarded as one of Rome's most talented players, having led RFA in scoring for two years, and helping the Black Knights win the New York State Division I championship during the 1985-86 campaign as a senior; he finished his high school career with over 60 goals and 60 assists, and earned a full scholarship to play hockey at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute where he finished his career as the school's seventh all-time leading scorer; he then embarked on a pro career, including five seasons in the East Coast Hockey League, two years of pro roller hockey, and playing overseas in Great Britain's Premier League; and

WHEREAS, Steven W. Evans left his mark on the high school level as a standout basketball player at RFA where, in three years as the starting point guard, he scored over 1,000 points; this team captain and all-star honoree was also a gifted baseball player, leading RFA with a .365 batting average in his senior season; he went on to be a four-year basketball starter for Union College, setting a single-season assist record; since 2000, he has been head coach at Le Moyne College in Syracuse and, in 2014, the Dolphins reached the NCAA Division II tournament

for the first time in 17 years; he is second on Le Moyne's all-time win list, and he was at the helm in 2009 when the school upset neighboring Division I power Syracuse University in an exhibition game; and

WHEREAS, Marge Meiss VanSlyke is credited with helping to push forward girls sports in the city, having been among the founders of the Rome Girls Softball Association; in the 1950s, when girls sports in Rome were still in the building stages, she established herself as one of the city's top female athletes as a Junior Olympic speed skating champion, and she played multiple sports during her high school years at a time when they were available only on a limited basis; after she graduated from RFA, she played and coached in the Adirondack Softball League, coached for the Rome Girls Softball Association, and became an avid bowler; one of the softball fields at the Bell Road complex is named in her honor and, in 2011, she was named to the Rome Women's Bowling Association Hall of Fame for her contributions as a bowler and league official; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom 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 the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the 2014 inductees of the Rome Sports Hall of Fame and Museum; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the aforementioned honorees.