

2015-J4868

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of John O. Raymond, legendary coach, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to citizens of the State of New York whose lifework and civic endeavor served to enhance the quality of life in their communities and the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, John O. Raymond of Saranac Lake, New York, died on Friday, March 18, 2016, at the age of 73; and

WHEREAS, Born in Tupper Lake, New York on August 5, 1942, John O. Raymond was the son of Mark and Kathryn (Trainor) Raymond; he married Mary Bevilacqua on August 16, 1975, in Paul Smiths, New York; and

WHEREAS, John O. Raymond distinguished himself in his profession and by his sincere dedication and substantial contribution to the welfare of his community; and

WHEREAS, A graduate of Tupper Lake High School, Ithaca College, and St. Lawrence University, John O. Raymond was hired as a teacher in the Saranac Lake School District in 1964; he served as Dean of Students, Middle School Principal, Athletic Director, and District Superintendent during his tenure, but his true love was coaching; and

WHEREAS, Coach John O. Raymond was the architect of one of the most successful football programs in the State of New York; during his 30 years of coaching football he led Saranac Lake to numerous championship seasons; and

WHEREAS, This distinguished mentor took the then-Redskins football team all the way to the New York State Class C title game at the Carrier Dome in 1995 and was also instrumental in guiding several teams to the state playoffs; and

WHEREAS, Upon his final retirement from coaching in 1998, John O.

Raymond was the all-time leader in Section VII with 172 victories; in addition to football, he won championships in baseball, skiing, and basketball; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his father and mother, John O. Raymond is survived by his wife Mary; three children, Reagan, Mark and Matt; one brother, Curtis; two sisters, Gail and Jane; and six grandchildren; he is also survived by many nieces and nephews as well as the extended Bevilacqua family; and

WHEREAS, John O. Raymond's commitment to excellence, and his spirit of humanity, carried over into all fields of enterprise, including charitable and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit and imbued with a sense of compassion, John O. Raymond leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all he served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of John O. Raymond, legendary coach, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of John O. Raymond.