

## 2017-J5776

Senate Resolution No. 5776

BY: Senator DEFRANCISCO

COMMENDING Michael Messere upon the occasion of his retirement after serving for more than 40 years as Head Coach of the West Genesee Boys Varsity Lacrosse Team

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor the distinguished careers of those esteemed individuals within our midst whose lives have been committed to the pursuit of excellence and who bring great pride to the citizens of our Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Michael Messere upon the occasion of his retirement after serving for more than 40 years as Head Coach of the West Genesee Boys Varsity Lacrosse Team; his outstanding career will be commemorated at a "Celebration of Coach Messere," hosted by the Class of 1981 West Genesee Alumni and the John Pepper Memorial Athletic Fund Committee at the Onondaga Community College SRC Arena on July 28, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Coach Michael "Mike" Messere was born in Solvay, New York, and grew up in Fairmount; Coach Messere, a 1962 graduate of West Genesee High School, was a member of his high school football, wrestling, and lacrosse teams; and

WHEREAS, Mike Messere studied at the State University of New York at Cortland where he played lacrosse all four seasons; in 1966, he earned his B.S.E. in physical education from SUNY Cortland and was inducted into the SUNY Cortland Hall of Fame in 1985; and

WHEREAS, Upon his graduation, Mike Messere returned to Syracuse to teach elementary physical education for two years in the city school district; from 1968-1974, Mike Messere taught health and physical education at West Genesee Junior High School, before moving on to teach physical education at West Genesee Senior High School for 24 years; and

WHEREAS, In 1976, Mike Messere was named to the position of head coach of the West Genesee High School Boys Varsity Lacrosse Team and the dynasty began; and

WHEREAS, Under Mike Messere's leadership, the West Genesee Boys Varsity Lacrosse Team has achieved over 840 wins and 11 undefeated seasons; the West Genesee Boys Varsity Lacrosse team has also won over 30 Section III Championships; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Mike Messere has led the West Genesee Boys Varsity Lacrosse Team to win 15 New York State Class A Championship titles; no lacrosse coach - high school or college - has had more wins than Mike Messere; and

WHEREAS, In his last season coaching high school lacrosse, Mike Messere once again led his team to the New York Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) State Championship; and

WHEREAS, For his accomplishments as a lacrosse coach, Mike Messere has been inducted into the National Lacrosse Hall of Fame, the National High School Hall of Fame, and into the U.S. Lacrosse Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Mike Messere founded and still directs his own Shove Park Developmental and Recreational Lacrosse Program, which has grown from 13 participants in 1974 to 490 participants a decade later; and

WHEREAS, In addition to coaching lacrosse, Mike Messere has coached football and wrestling and has volunteered his time to the Fairmount Fire Department's Emergency Squad; and

WHEREAS, The quality and character of life in the Central New York community has been ably served and uniquely enriched through the selfless dedication and benevolent concern of Coach Mike Messere; and

WHEREAS, Upon his retirement, Mike Messere will have more time to spend with his family including his wife of 49 years, Barbara, and their two children, Michael and Amanda; and

WHEREAS, Mike Messere, in every capacity in which he has served, has left a permanent mark on the Central New York community; he will forever be remembered as a determined, innovative and genuinely concerned expert and mentor in his field; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Michael Messere upon the occasion of his retirement, and wish him continued success in all his future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Michael Messere.