

2013-J501

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating the Albany Athletics upon the occasion of capturing the 2012 National Championship at the AABC World Series

WHEREAS, Excellence and success in competitive sports can be achieved only through strenuous practice, team play and team spirit, nurtured by dedicated coaching and strategic planning; and

WHEREAS, Athletic competition enhances the moral and physical development of people of this State, by instilling in them the value of teamwork, encouraging a standard of healthy living, imparting a desire for success and developing a sense of fair play and competition; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is proud to congratulate the Albany Athletics upon the occasion of capturing the 2012 National Championship at the AABC World Series; and

WHEREAS, In existence since 1996, the Albany Athletics changed names to the Athletics before the 2002 season; previously, the team was known as the Albany Senators for 6 years; the team is affiliated with the American Amateur Baseball Congress (AABC) and competes in the Haack Division of the Albany Twilight League; and

WHEREAS, Established in 1931, the Twilight League is a wood bat league with players 18 years old and up; the league is primarily composed of post-college and current college players from junior college to Division I; and

WHEREAS, The three-time defending Twilight League Champion Albany Athletics captured their first National Championship in dramatic fashion at the 2012 AABC World Series in Port St. Lucie, Florida, when Dan Barbero hit a walk-off three-run homerun in the bottom of the 9th inning for a 7-5 victory over the Tampa Elite Rays; and

WHEREAS, The Athletics are the first Twilight League team and the first AABC Upper New York State team to ever capture a National title since the World Series started in 1935; the Athletics become only the second team since 1977 from the North Atlantic Region to capture the National World Series and the sixth North Atlantic team since the first

year of the AABC World Series; and

WHEREAS, The exceptional athletes of the Albany Athletics receive no compensation; they are young men from the local community who play in front of their family and friends for the love of the game; they are the future educational, economic, and political leaders in their region, whose achievements deserve to be recognized in order to help them become positive role models to younger men and women in their community; and WHEREAS, The athletic talent and success displayed and achieved by the Albany Athletics is due in great part to the efforts of Head Coach Joe Altieri, in his 17th season, and Assistant Coaches, John Kelly, Bill Lawton, and Eric Biehler; skilled and inspirational leaders, respected for their ability to develop athletic potential into excellence; and WHEREAS, The Albany Athletics Championship team is also ably and enthusiastically supported by their fans, friends, family and community; and

WHEREAS, The hallmarks of the Albany Athletics, from the opening game of the season to victory in the 2012 National Championship at the AABC World Series, were a brotherhood of athletic ability, an unbeatable combination of talents, and a dedication to winning that reflected favorably on their team, league and community; and

WHEREAS, Sports competition instills the values of teamwork, pride and accomplishment; the Albany Athletics Team's outstanding athletes have

clearly made a contribution to the spirit of excellence which is their tradition; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate the Albany Athletics upon the occasion of capturing the 2012 National Championship at the AABC World Series; and be it further RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the members, management, coaches and staff of the Albany Athletics.