Honoring The Lancaster Legends Football Team for their Excellence on their 100th Anniversary

WHEREAS, the Lancaster Legends Football Team, at Lancaster High School, has long been known for their scholastic and athletics excellence; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, the Legends have been the Section 6 Class AA football champions six times, in 1988, 1999, and in 2016, 2017, 2018 and also in 2019, their centennial year/season; and

WHEREAS, in a reflection of their sporting excellence on the field, many players on the team have been named to the All Western New York Team in the First Team, Second Team, and Honorable Mention; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, the Western New York Certified Football Officials Association named the team as their “Sportsmanship Team of the Year”, thus solidifying the team’s status as a team with “good kids” who play hard but also play fair and with honor; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, the Legends’ coach, Eric Rupp, was voted by the Bee Newspapers as the 2019 All-Bee Football Team Coach of the Year, marking the third time in four years that other coaches in Western New York have so honored him; and

WHEREAS, as Coach Rupp recently stated to the Bee Newspapers, the team has developed a tradition of excellence, in part, because the coaching staff “really have a strong emphasis on making personal connections with the kids and developing them both on and off the field. Our program’s motto is … ‘Building Champions for Life,’ and that’s really what our No. 1 priority is as a staff. We want to develop young men first, and then win football games second”; and

WHEREAS, other coaching legends at Lancaster have included Bill Kling (1925-1940 and 1942-1943), whose record was 71-40-14, Frank Simon (1950-1960), and whose record was 60-22-3, Joe Foyle (1961-1985 – and who still serves as an assistant coach), whose record was 117-81-7, and Len Jankiewicz (1986-2011), whose record was 143-90-2, and who was recently inducted into the Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame in 2019; and
WHEREAS, the team plays at Foyle/Kling Field, which was named in honor of those two coaches; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, the team celebrated their 100th anniversary, and on October 18, 2019, the Legends played rival Depew Wildcats in a game which Lancaster won 42-3, and which was preceded by a pep rally and then a Legends’ motorcade with players on the team bus being escorted by fire trucks, police vehicles, and cars to Depew for the game; and

WHEREAS, the Legends coaches, staff and players continue to display their character through good sportsmanship, academic excellence, and athletic prowess and success, both on and off the field, and it is the desire of this Honorable Body to recognize dynamic young people and their educators for these accomplishments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature pauses in its deliberations to honor and congratulate the Lancaster Legends Football Team and their coaching staff for their accomplishments on the field, and off the field; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body thanks the team and their coaches for being outstanding ambassadors and exemplars for our community and young people and wishes them the very best for future success.

Hon. John Bruso
Erie County Legislator, 8th District
Majority Leader

Robert M. Graber
Clerk of the Legislature