



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Citation

Whereas, the Empire State is proud to join in recognizing significant milestones in the lives of distinguished individuals who have helped shape our cultural history, adding richness and depth to the lives of all New Yorkers; in this sense, we are happy to welcome to Albany the former New York Met, Mike Piazza, newly-elected member of the National Baseball Hall of Fame Class of 2016; and

Whereas, Michael Joseph Piazza was born in 1968 to Vince and Veronica Piazza, the second of their five boys, and he grew up in Phoenixville, a suburb of Philadelphia; from an early age, young Mike had a single-minded focus on baseball and the determination to practice long hours, building batting strength; Mike was fortunate to receive instruction and advice from the great Ted Williams when he was only 12; in 1988, Mike was drafted by the Los Angeles Dodgers and spent four seasons in their farm system, learning the trade of a catcher; and

Whereas, in 1992, Mike made his Major League debut, doubling in his first official at-bat; the following year, he won the National League MLB Rookie of the Year Award, after a phenomenal season including the first of his 12 appearances in the All-Star game; in 1998, Mike Piazza was traded to the New York Mets and his fantastic numbers helped the Mets to two postseason appearances, including the 2000 Subway Series against the New York Yankees; and

Whereas, during his years as a New York Met, Mike Piazza became a well-respected, all-time fan favorite for his passion and enthusiasm for the game, for his tireless work ethic, for his remarkable fielding as a catcher, and for his exciting power hits, explosive home runs, and game-winning grand slams; finishing his Major League career in San Diego and Oakland, Mike's statistics remain extraordinary – a lifetime batting average of .308, 1,335 RBIs, and a record 397 of his 427 homers hit while playing behind the plate; and

Whereas, among many memorable moments during his time in New York, Mike Piazza's home run in the first professional sporting event in post 9/11 New York City was, indeed, another shot heard round the world; just ten days after the terrorist attacks, in the midst of shock and grief, this emotional night provided a sense of unity and patriotism and a feeling of healing and normalcy in the wake of our national tragedy; and

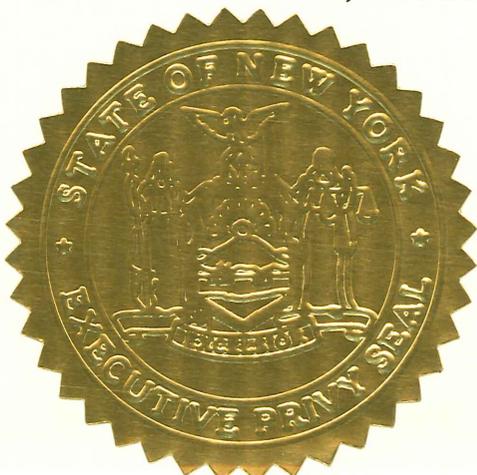
Whereas, Mike Piazza was invited back to Shea Stadium in 2008 to catch Hall of Famer Tom Seaver's final pitch before the iconic baseball field was demolished; the legendary pair again threw and caught the first ceremonial pitch as Citi Field was opened in 2009; it is, therefore, most appropriate that Mike Piazza shall join Tom Seaver in the Hall of Fame this July as he is officially inducted in Cooperstown and his uniform number, 31, is retired in Queens; and

Whereas, all New Yorkers are proud to join in congratulating Mike on his induction into the National Baseball Hall of Fame, most particularly as a New York Met, and in recognizing the many great memories he has given us throughout his record-breaking career, as well as the inspiration he provides to many young, aspiring ballplayers throughout our state and nation, who are truly the future of the game;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby confer this Special Citation in recognition of

MIKE PIAZZA DAY

in the Empire State and extend best wishes, on behalf of all New Yorkers, for a memorable celebration.



Governor
March 9, 2016