



Allegheny County Council

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Proclamation honoring the astounding wrestling career of ***James J. Dillon.***

WHEREAS, on December 7, 1968, 51 years ago, ***James J. Dillon*** had his first match in Pittsburgh, on WIIC's Channel 11 and Studio Wrestling against "Killer" Kowolski; and

WHEREAS, hoping to break into professional wrestling, ***Mr. Dillon*** wrote to Italian-born American professional wrestler, Bruno Sammartino. It was Sammartino who gave ***Mr. Dillon***, born ***James Morrison***, a chance at wrestling; and

WHEREAS, ***Mr. Dillon***, who previously worked as a referee, started to wrestle regularly in the Northeast and as far west as Detroit. It was here that he started an in-ring rivalry with Dusty Rhodes that helped to define ***Mr. Dillon's*** career. However, Pittsburgh always had a special place in his heart; and

WHEREAS, ***Mr. Dillon's*** wrestling career lasted for many years; he was best known as the manager of the Legendary 4 Horsemen. During that time, ***Mr. Dillon*** would accompany NWA World Heavyweight Champions to defenses at what was the then Civic Arena; and

WHEREAS, ***Mr. Dillon***, at his very last appearance as an active wrestler, headlined a Deaf Wrestlefest card at the Western Pennsylvanian School for the Deaf on May 3, 2009 that featured the grappler participating in a six-man competition with Frank Stilleto and Lou Marconi against the legendary Dominic DeNucci, Shane Douglas and Cody Michaels; and

WHEREAS, ***Mr. Dillon*** had the honor of being inducted into the Hall of Fame by the WWE; and

WHEREAS in 2015, ***Mr. Dillon*** was accompanied by long-time friend Nick Busick in being inducted into the Keystone State Wrestling Alliance (KSWA) Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, in addition, **Mr. Dillon** accompanied Shawn Blanchard to the ring and advised his client to a 6th KWSA Heavyweight Championship reign; and

WHEREAS, last December, near the anniversary of his first match in Pittsburgh, **Mr. Dillon** once again accompanied Shawn Blanchard to the ring in an attempt to capture the NWA Heavyweight Championship at Spirit Hall in Pittsburgh;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Allegheny County Council Member John P. DeFazio, do hereby commend and honor the astounding wrestling career of **James J. Dillon** which began in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. May his inductions into the WWE Hall of Fame and Keystone Wrestling Alliance Hall of Fame inspire others to achieve their dreams as wrestlers and to serve as a reminder that anything is possible to those who are determined.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 20th day of July 2019.