

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

## *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, Neighborhood Legal Service Association (NLSA), along with Art Rooney, II, is celebrating six native western Pennsylvania quarterbacks who are members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame at "Gridiron Gold" on June 6, 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, this special recognition event will honor George Blanda, Jim Kelly, Dan Marino, Joe Montana, Joe Namath, and Johnny Unitas; four of these talented men will take part in a discussion where they will have an opportunity to reflect on their careers and how the region helped shape them as men and players; and

**WHEREAS**, Johnny Unitas was a 9<sup>th</sup> round draft choice of the 1955 Pittsburgh Steelers, however he was cut before he even threw one pass in a game; still determined, he played semi-pro football for \$6 a game; after the season, Baltimore Colts' Coach Emlbank learned of the "outstanding prospect" on the Pittsburgh sandlots and signed Mr. Unitas for \$17,000 on a make the team basis; without a doubt, it was his last-second heroics in the 1958 NFL title game, often called "the greatest game ever played," that turned Mr. Unitas into a household name; Mr. Unitas' record of at least one touchdown pass in 47 consecutive games may stand forever; and

**WHEREAS**, western Pennsylvania has a distinct love of sports and is loyal to those from its community; we are extremely proud of Johnny Unitas, and all that he accomplished throughout his career; he has set an excellent example to many youth in our region and has been a role model of which we can be proud; and

**WHEREAS**, the involvement of Jim Kelly, Dan Marino, Joe Montana, Joe Namath, and the families of Johnny Unitas and George Blanda is extremely generous and displays their kindness toward our community; the NLSA, which will receive the proceeds from the event, has been working for 50 years to restore hope to vulnerable individuals and families in our region – hope that comes in the form of equal access to justice.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby congratulate all six quarterbacks on their successful careers; we are proud that they hail from western Pennsylvania and for the commitment they still have to our region.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 6<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2015.

*Rich Fitzgerald*

Rich Fitzgerald