

STATE SENATOR • JOHN J. GLEASON • 27TH DISTRICT

Gleason Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Jun 18, 2008

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Senator Gleason Praises Byrd Appointment to Unarmed Combat Commission

Flint boxing legend to serve state sports industry for two-year term

FLINT – Sen. John Gleason (D-Flushing) congratulated Joe W. Byrd today for his official appointment to the Michigan Unarmed Combat Commission by Governor Granholm. Byrd was appointed to represent boxing licensees for a term expiring June 5, 2010, effective immediately.

“Joe Byrd is a valuable asset to Flint, and to the state of Michigan,” said Gleason. “His exceptional talent and dedication will help us continue Michigan’s long legacy of boxing greats, and bring the tradition and economic impact of big fights back to the state.”

Byrd, of Flint, is an amateur and professional coach at the Joe Byrd Boxing Academy. He also coached the United States boxing team that traveled to Barcelona for the 1992 Summer Olympics. With his father in his corner, Joe’s son Chris won the silver medal at the ’92 Games, and is also the former WBO and IBF heavyweight champion.

The Michigan Unarmed Combat Commission is responsible for the regulation of professional boxing and mixed martial arts events in the state. The commission is the successor to the Michigan Boxing Commission, which Byrd was appointed to last year.

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