

2017 -- S 0693

LC002361

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

SENATE RESOLUTION

**CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND MEN'S BASKETBALL
TEAM ON WINNING THE 2017 ATLANTIC 10 CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT
CHAMPIONSHIP**

Introduced By: Senators Sosnowski, Ruggerio, Algieri, Calkin, and Felag

Date Introduced: March 30, 2017

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, The University of Rhode Island Men's Basketball Team picked the right
2 time of the season to play their best basketball, as they swept aside the competition at the 2017
3 Atlantic 10 Men's Basketball Tournament to win their first Atlantic 10 Conference Tournament
4 Championship in eighteen years, and advance to the second round of the NCAA Basketball
5 Tournament; and

6 WHEREAS, The URI Men's Basketball Team has compiled an outstanding 25 and 10
7 record in the 2016-2017 season thanks to the outstanding play provided all season by Hassan
8 Martin, the Atlantic 10 Defensive Player of the Year and All-Conference Second Team selection,
9 E.C. Matthews, Atlantic 10 All-Conference Third Team selection, Jeff Dowtin, an Atlantic 10
10 All-Rookie Team selection, and the innumerable contributions provided by Jared Terrell, Kuran
11 Iverson, Jarvis Garrett, Stanford Robinson, Nicola Akele, Cyril Langevine, Christion Thompson,
12 Andre Berry, Eric Dadika, Will Leviton and Mike Layssard. Additionally, the Rams were blessed
13 to be led by the innovative coaching and exemplary leadership provided by Head Coach Dan
14 Hurley, Associate Head Coach David Cox, and Assistant Coaches Jim Carr, and Antonio
15 Reynolds Dean; and

16 WHEREAS, The Rams Men's basketball team entered the Atlantic 10 Conference
17 Tournament in Pittsburgh desperate for wins with all the national prognosticators declaring that
18 URI had to make a deep run in order to secure an NCAA bid. Many teams wilt under this kind of
19 pressure but the Rams seemed to welcome it as they stormed through the opposition and

1 dominated the tournament. They began their run by beating St. Bonaventure 74 to 63, putting
2 away the Bonnies in the second half with an 11 to 2 run. E.C. Matthews and Hassan Martin
3 combined for thirty-nine points in the Rams victory. In the Semi-Finals, URI thrashed Davidson
4 84 to 60, trailing for only twenty-four seconds in the game, and advancing to the title game
5 against Virginia Commonwealth University; and

6 WHEREAS, With the NCAA Tournament bid on the line, the Rams men's basketball
7 team started the game on fire, storming to a big first half lead and withstanding a second half run
8 by VCU to win the Atlantic 10 Championship by the score of 70 to 63. The Rams were able to
9 cut the nets down in Pittsburgh thanks to the outstanding play provided by E.C. Matthews who
10 scored nineteen points, grabbed nine rebounds, and was named the Most Outstanding Player of
11 the Atlantic 10 Championship and a member of the All-Championship Team. Joining him on the
12 All-Championship team was teammate Hassan Martin, who contributed eleven points, five
13 rebounds and three blocked shots in the title game. Also making vital contributions were Jared
14 Terrell, who scored twenty-four points, and freshman Cyril Langevine who grabbed ten rebounds
15 and blocked two shots off the bench; and

16 WHEREAS, The Rams were underdogs in their first round game against Creighton but
17 established their dominance over the Bluejays at the start of the game as they jumped out to a 6 to
18 1 lead and held Creighton without a field goal thanks to their tenacious defense. The Rams
19 continued the defensive pressure throughout the game, holding Creighton to 30 percent shooting
20 as they pulled ahead to a 7-point lead at the half thanks to the ability of Jeff Downtin and Kuran
21 Iverson to get to the basket and connect on high percentage shots. In the second half, URI pushed
22 its lead to eleven points and maintained a double-digit lead for most of the second half as they put
23 away Creighton and cruised to 84 to 72 victory. The Rams were superb at the free throw line,
24 connecting on 28 of 31 free throws, and they overwhelmed Creighton with their balanced attack,
25 with five players scoring in double figures to send the Rams to the NCAA round of 32; and

26 WHEREAS, In the following game, URI took an explosive Oregon Ducks basketball
27 team and gave them everything they could handle, with the Rams pushing Oregon to the limit and
28 the very last possession before falling in a heartbreaking 75 to 72 loss to a very talented team;
29 now, therefore be it

30 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
31 hereby congratulates the University of Rhode Island Men's Basketball Team on winning the 2017
32 Atlantic 10 Men's Basketball Conference Tournament; and be it further

33 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
34 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mr. Dan Hurley, Head Coach, University of

1 Rhode Island Men's Basketball Team.

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