

2019 -- H 6261

LC002923

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

HOUSE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING JOHNSTON NATIVE AND LEGENDARY RHODE ISLAND
BASKETBALL STAR JOE MAZZULLA ON BEING NAMED AN ASSISTANT
BASKETBALL COACH WITH THE BOSTON CELTICS

Introduced By: Representatives Mattiello, Ucci, Shekarchi, Fellela, and Costantino

Date Introduced: June 27, 2019

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Joe Mazzulla, one of the greatest basketball players to ever come from the
2 State of Rhode Island, was recently named as the new Assistant Basketball Coach with the
3 Boston Celtics. Mr. Mazzulla had a legendary high school basketball career with the Hendricken
4 Hawks as he led them to three State Championship Titles and a perfect 21-0 record in his senior
5 season; and

6 WHEREAS, Joe Mazzulla matriculated at the University of West Virginia to play for
7 famed head coach Bob Huggins. In a standout career at West Virginia, and despite being plagued
8 by constant shoulder injuries, Mr. Mazzulla played in 145 games over five seasons, (missing most
9 of one season due to injury), and, over that period, played a significant role in leading the
10 Mountaineers to four straight NCAA Tournament appearances, a Big East Conference
11 Tournament Championship in 2010, and a thrilling run to the National Final Four, also in 2010;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Statistics alone cannot fully explain why Joe Mazzulla was such a force of
14 nature on the basketball courts in high school and college. He was widely admired for his
15 toughness, especially while battling injuries, and his strong leadership abilities. At West Virginia,
16 he was known for his defensive excellence and was, in many ways, a second coach on the floor
17 for Head Coach Bob Huggins. Joe's visage seemed to be perpetually on our television screens
18 from 2006 to 2011, as he was constantly leading his Mountaineer squads into battle in countless
19 big games before national audiences. It seemed that the bigger the game, the better Joe played;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, Since the end of his halcyon days as a star basketball player, Mr. Mazzulla
3 has moved on to become a very successful basketball coach. He began his coaching career as an
4 Assistant Coach at Glenville State. Shortly thereafter, he served for three seasons as an Assistant
5 Coach at Fairmont State University, and was an Assistant Coach with the Maine Claws of the
6 NBA Development League in 2016-2017; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Mazzulla was the Head Basketball Coach at Fairmont State University
8 for the past two seasons, after being named head coach on March 28, 2017. Since assuming the
9 head coaching position, Coach Mazzulla compiled a sterling 43-17 record over the past two
10 seasons, winning 20 or more games each season and earning a berth in the 2019 NCAA Division
11 II Basketball Tournament; and

12 WHEREAS, Joe Mazzulla is the loving husband of Camai, and the devoted father of
13 Michael and Emmanuel; now, therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
15 Providence Plantations hereby congratulates Joe Mazzulla on being named the new Assistant
16 Coach with the Boston Celtics, and wishes him continued success in all his future endeavors; and
17 be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
19 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mr. Joe Mazzulla.

=====
LC002923
=====