

2012 -- H 8273

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

HOUSE RESOLUTION

HONORING NORMAND "BILL" BELISLE FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO ICE HOCKEY  
AND FOR RECEIVING THE RHODE ISLAND REDS HERITAGE SOCIETY NATIVE-  
BORN HOCKEY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Introduced By: Representatives Menard, Winfield, Brien, Phillips, and Baldelli-Hunt

Date Introduced: June 13, 2012

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Reds Heritage Society Native-Born Hockey Achievement  
2 Award, inaugurated by the Society in 2011, is given to a Rhode Island native-born individual who  
3 has made significant contributions to the game of hockey and, by doing so, has brought statewide,  
4 national, and worldwide attention to the proud history of ice hockey in Rhode Island; and

5 WHEREAS, Normand "Bill" Belisle has been singled out as the recipient of the Rhode  
6 Island Reds Heritage Society 2013 Native-Born Hockey Achievement Award; and

7 WHEREAS, Normand "Bill" Belisle has earned the title, "America's most successful and  
8 respected high school hockey coach." Bill Belisle's coaching career achievements easily stand on  
9 par with those of coaches that have been inducted into the NHL Hall of Fame; and

10 WHEREAS, Before becoming a coaching legend among boys hockey teams in the  
11 United States, Coach Belisle was a student at Mount Saint Charles Academy and an enthusiastic  
12 member of the hockey and baseball teams. His acuity as a coach can be seen in his earlier skills as  
13 a hockey player, for Bill's team handily won the state championship during his junior year; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1954, Bill began his coaching career with the Manville CYO junior high  
15 school baseball team. Under his leadership, the team won State and New England  
16 Championships, the first time a parochial school had earned such distinctions. He later organized  
17 the first Little League farm team in Manville; and

18 WHEREAS, After honing his coaching skills, Bill turned his attention and talents to ice  
19 hockey. For more than 38 years, Bill has served as head coach for the Mount Saint Charles High

1 School Hockey Team. During this time, he has earned 30 championship titles, with 26 of those  
2 championships won in consecutive years, from 1978 to 2003; and

3 WHEREAS, With over 900 total wins coaching the Mounties, Bill is the winningest high  
4 school hockey coach in the country; and

5 WHEREAS, Along with setting a national record for his 26 consecutive wins and 900  
6 total career wins, Coach Belisle has amassed an impressive array of additional accomplishments.  
7 He successfully ushered his teams to 100 consecutive wins in Interscholastic League games and  
8 94 consecutive wins in the Metropolitan “A” Division, and had his teams rank first place in high  
9 school hockey in the United States more than 10 times; and

10 WHEREAS, Coach Belisle was the first Rhode Island hockey coach to receive the  
11 prestigious Mariucci Award from the American Hockey Coaches Association, was inducted into  
12 the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame and the Woonsocket Heritage Hall of Fame, and has  
13 received the Cumberland-Lincoln Rotary Club’s Outstanding Achievement Award; and

14 WHEREAS, Coach Belisle’s pursuits off the ice are also noteworthy. He served his  
15 nation with honor and distinction in the Korean War, where he attained the rank of staff sergeant.  
16 When he returned from the war, he married the love of his life, Yvette, and together, they proudly  
17 raised four sons; and

18 WHEREAS, Coach Normand “Bill” Belisle has been a motivating soul, a dedicated  
19 father, husband, and mentor, and an inspiration for many generations of Rhode Islanders. He is a  
20 true living legend; now, therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and  
22 Providence Plantations hereby congratulates Normand “Bill” Belisle for his selfless contributions  
23 to ice hockey and for furthering the sport in Rhode Island. We commend him on receiving the  
24 esteemed Rhode Island Reds Heritage Society 2013 Native-Born Hockey Achievement Award;  
25 and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to  
27 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Normand “Bill” Belisle.

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