

2013 -- H 6151

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

**RECOGNIZING THE WESTERLY HIGH SCHOOL UNIFIED BASKETBALL TEAM ON
WINNING THE RHODE ISLAND DIVISION IV UNIFIED BASKETBALL STATE
CHAMPIONSHIP**

Introduced By: Representatives Azzinaro, Kennedy, Corvese, Malik, and Walsh

Date Introduced: May 21, 2013

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Unified basketball is a co-ed sport in which teams are composed of students
2 with special needs that range from autism to learning and developmental disabilities. These
3 athletes work with partners who volunteer their time to help out on the court at games. In this
4 manner, unified basketball fosters a spirit of friendship and competition in athletics and allows all
5 involved to learn life skills and make enduring friendships; and

6 WHEREAS, The Westerly Unified basketball team got off to a slow start this season but
7 never quit. The team kept working and kept competing, and their perseverance ultimately paid off
8 when they defeated East Greenwich to win the state title; and

9 WHEREAS, When the champions returned home to Westerly, they were greeted by
10 nearly 1,000 cheering fans in a packed Federico Gym, with the Pep band playing for the athletes.
11 As a sign of just how much this championship means to the Westerly community, the
12 championship plaque has been placed in a trophy case outside of Federico Gym, at the front and
13 center of the building; and

14 WHEREAS, This championship and special moment for the Westerly community would
15 not have been possible without the leadership provided by Head Coach Donna Allinson and
16 Assistant Coach Brendan Murphy, the support provided by Principal Steven S. Ruscito and
17 Athletic Director James J. Vetelino, and the hard work, dedication, and persistence displayed by
18 the athletes that comprise the Westerly Unified Championship Basketball Team: Heather Bishop,
19 Brandon Bailey, Jonathon Chiaradio, Adam W. Moscaritolo, Nicole E. Broncato, Lia Gabrielle,

1 Captain Alan Yu, Captain Erika Allen, Angel Quattromani, Seth Gardner, John Salimeno,
2 Christian M. Walsh, Charles W. Elliot, Captain Mike Famodimu, Captain Ryan Gulluscio, Dalton
3 Lanphere, Michael T. O'Connell, and Matthew C. O'Connell; now, therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
5 Providence Plantations hereby recognizes the commitment, talents, and efforts of the Westerly
6 High School Unified Basketball Team. We extend our gratitude to all who helped bring the state
7 title to Westerly and commend them for the example they provide for others to emulate; and be it
8 further

9 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
10 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Westerly Unified Basketball Head Coach
11 Donna Allinson.

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