

2024 -- H 8258

=====
LC006024
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

HOUSE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING THE PONAGANSET HIGH SCHOOL CHIEFTAINS WRESTLING TEAM ON THEIR INCREDIBLY SUCCESSFUL SEASON IN 2024 AS THEY REPEATED AS RHODE ISLAND STATE CHAMPIONS AND AS NEW ENGLAND CHAMPIONS

Introduced By: Representatives Chippendale, Place, Kennedy, Ajello, Handy, Shallcross
Smith, Tanzi, Cortvriend, and Boylan

Date Introduced: May 09, 2024

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, The Ponaganset Wrestling Team has been making history recently. In a run
2 of dominance rarely seen in Rhode Island high school sports, the Chieftains wrestling team not
3 only repeated as State and New England champions in 2024, but did so in record-setting fashion;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, In a performance that stunned and astounded observers, the Ponaganset
6 High School Wrestling Team once again won the Rhode Island State Interscholastic Wrestling
7 Championship but this time, they also set a state record for most points amassed, 304.5, which
8 broke the record set by Hendricken in 2015 with 276 points. The Chieftains set another record, as
9 they won their meet by a State record of 182 points, breaking the record victory margin of 136
10 points by Johnston in 1988; and

11 WHEREAS, The Chieftains continued their wrestling dominance at the New England
12 Championships as they became the first team in Rhode Island Interscholastic League history to
13 repeat as the New England Wrestling champions. Once again, Ponaganset accomplished this
14 achievement in dominating fashion as they defeated second place Xavier, the Connecticut State
15 champions, by 60 points, 209 to 149. Competing against a field loaded with talent, Ponaganset
16 wrestlers Cole Lemovitz (106 pounds), Jared Hood (120 pounds), David Perez (132 pounds), and
17 Joseph Joyce (138 pounds) brought home the gold, Carnell Davis (150 pounds), Andrew Reall
18 (165 pounds), and Preston Marchesseault (170 pounds), earned silver recognition, while Apollo
19 Bellini (113 pounds), and Colby Vital (144 pounds), earned top six status; and

1 WHEREAS, Winning State and Regional Championships are incredible team
2 achievements that would be impossible without every team member placing team goals and needs
3 ahead of individual desires and aspirations. Thankfully, the record-setting Ponaganset Wrestling
4 Team has these qualities in abundance as they were led all season by the important contributions
5 provided by Apollo Bellini, Tyler Bergeron, Marley Bilotti, Paul Bower, Anthony Bruno, Jr.,
6 Andrew Budihas, Devon Carvalho, Jackson Conway, Michael Dahlquist, Carnell Davis, Michael
7 Diorio Matonti, Robert Douangmala, John Faber, Robert Guertin, Trevor Harris, Jaxson Harrop,
8 Ethan Hayter, Jared Hood, Joseph Joyce, William Leischner, Cole Lemovitz, Keith Limoges,
9 Preston Marchesseault, Jovani Martinez, Dillon Nelson, Matteo Pace, Otto Pearson, David Perez,
10 Steven Peters, Lyric Picard, Andrew Reall, Zachari Rocchio, Evan Sheeran, Colby Vital and
11 Ethan Wajdo. The Chieftains were also led all season by the outstanding coaching provided by
12 Head Coaches Steve DiNobile and Steve Mineo, and Assistant Coach Mike Joyce; now, therefore
13 be it

14 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
15 heartily congratulates the Ponaganset Wrestling Team on their incredible record-setting
16 accomplishments this season as they repeated as both the Rhode Island and New England
17 Champions; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
19 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Ponaganset High School Wrestling Head
20 Coaches, Steve DiNobile and Steve Mineo.

=====
LC006024
=====