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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

SENATE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING JOHN STELLITANO FOR BEING INDUCTED INTO THE CLASS OF
2013 RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC HALL
OF FAME

Introduced By: Senator Dennis L. Algieri

Date Introduced: January 31, 2013

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, John Stellitano is a lifetime Westerly resident. A member of the Westerly
2 High School class of 1941, he was a three-sport star who excelled in football, baseball, and
3 basketball. In football he was a single-wing quarterback who captained his team in his senior year
4 and was named First-Team All-State by the Providence Evening Bulletin. He also played outfield
5 for the Bulldog baseball team and forward-center in basketball, earning All-Class B basketball
6 honors his junior and senior years; and

7 WHEREAS, John Stellitano played freshman football in 1941 at Rhode Island State
8 College (renamed the University of Rhode Island in 1951) before he enlisted in the United States
9 Army Air Corps in February of 1942, just two months after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.
10 John earned his wings as a lieutenant and served our nation during her hour of greatest need with
11 honor, valor, and courage. John flew the maximum of 36 B-17 bomber missions over Germany
12 (from England) and was honorably discharged in the Spring of 1945, around the time Germany
13 was surrendering; and

14 WHEREAS, John also married his high school sweetheart, Mary Capalbo, just after he
15 earned his wings in the United States Army. Now, 69 years later, they still reside in Westerly and
16 together raised two daughters and a son; and

17 WHEREAS, John returned from the war and resumed his studies. He graduated from
18 URI in 1948 with a bachelor's degree in science and attained a master's degree in administration
19 in the mid-1950's. John taught math and physics and coached baseball at Lockwood High School

1 in Warwick for four years before returning to Westerly and embarking on his legendary coaching
2 career in basketball at Westerly High School; and

3 WHEREAS, John was an assistant coach for three years from 1951 to 1954 before being
4 named head basketball coach at Westerly High School. He coached Westerly High School
5 Basketball for twelve years and compiled an astounding 210-82 record and a 71.9 winning
6 percentage. Under his direction, his teams won four state titles in 1955, 1956, 1958, and 1960;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, John left Westerly High School in 1966 to become one of three principals at
9 Ludlow High School in Fairfield, Connecticut. He retired from teaching in 1991 and never
10 coached again after leaving Westerly High School. Over the years, John never lost touch with the
11 people he coached. He forged a very close bond with his players and was beloved and respected
12 by them. After all these years, he still gets together with his former players to talk about old
13 memories and to offer advice and support as they go about their daily lives; and

14 WHEREAS, John Stellitano is also an inductee of the Rhode Island Basketball Coaches
15 Association Hall of Fame and is a member of the inaugural class of 1999 in the Westerly High
16 School Athletic Hall of Fame; now, therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
18 hereby congratulates John Stellitano of Westerly, Rhode Island, for being inducted into the Class
19 of 2013 Rhode Island Interscholastic League High School Athletic Hall of Fame. We also thank
20 him for his heroic service to our nation during World War II and we wish him continued
21 happiness and good fortune in his retirement; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
23 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mr. John Stellitano.

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