

**2018 -- H 7947**

LC005235

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018**

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

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING ITS FIRST OUTRIGHT ATLANTIC 10 REGULAR SEASON CHAMPIONSHIP IN THE SCHOOL'S HISTORY, FOR MAKING IT TO THE FINALS OF THE ATLANTIC 10 CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT, AND FOR EARNING THE NUMBER 7 SEED IN THE NCAA TOURNAMENT, THE HIGHEST SEED IN THE SCHOOL'S HISTORY

Introduced By: Representatives Mattiello, Craven, McEntee, Fogarty, and Tanzi

Date Introduced: March 14, 2018

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, The University of Rhode Island Men's Basketball Team is in the midst of  
2 one of its most successful seasons in program history. The Basketball Team compiled an  
3 outstanding 25-7 regular season record which included a 15-3 first place record in the Atlantic 10  
4 Conference and the program's first ever outright Atlantic 10 Men's Basketball regular season  
5 championship. The team spent much of the regular season ranked within the top 25 national polls  
6 and culminated their regular season with a place in the finals of the Atlantic 10 Conference  
7 Tournament; and

8           WHEREAS, The Rams were led all season by a deep and talented veteran roster with a  
9 fierce desire to make their mark on the national collegiate college basketball landscape. Senior  
10 Guard Jared Terrell led the squad in scoring, averaging 17.2 points per game and hitting 82.4  
11 percent of his free throws. For his excellent play and sterling leadership, Jared Terrell earned First  
12 Team All-Conference honors. Senior Guard E.C. Matthews also earned conference honors when  
13 he was selected as a Third Team All-Conference choice. He finished second on the team in points  
14 scored, averaging 13.1 points per game and hitting 74.7 percent of his free throws. The Rams  
15 were also aided all season by the contributions of Point Guard Jeff Downtin, who led the team in  
16 assists with 5.5 per game and chipped in with 9.7 points per game, and the tough defense  
17 provided by Senior Stanford Robinson, who was named to the Atlantic 10 All-Defensive Team,

1 and averaged 9.1 points per game and led the team in rebounding averaging 5.7 per game.  
2 Additionally, the Rams were a deep team that regularly had eight players getting significant  
3 minutes per game, thereby often wearing down the opposition. Rhode Island could not have  
4 maintained the pace of play they exhibited all season without the important contributions  
5 provided by Freshman Guard Fatts Russell, Sophomore Forward Cyril Langevine, Senior  
6 Forward Andre Berry, and Senior Guard Jarvis Garrett; and

7 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Rams Basketball Team has been fortunate to have been  
8 led for the last six seasons, since the 2012-2013 season, by Head Coach Dan Hurley. During his  
9 tenure at the University of Rhode Island, he has led the Rams twice to the NCAA Tournament  
10 and once to the NIT. For the current 2017-2018 season, Coach Hurley was named the 2018  
11 Atlantic 10 Coach of the Year. Under his direction, guidance and leadership, this season the Rams  
12 won their first outright Atlantic 10 regular season conference championship, set a program record  
13 with 15 Atlantic 10 Conference victories, and tied program records for most home wins with 15,  
14 most road conference wins with 7, and had a 16 game winning streak, the second longest in  
15 program history. Also, this season's Rams were ranked in the top 25 for both national polls for  
16 the last seven weeks of the regular season, the longest such streak in the history of Rhode Island  
17 Rams Men's Basketball program; now, therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and  
19 Providence Plantations hereby congratulates the University of Rhode Island Men's Basketball  
20 Team for winning its first outright Atlantic 10 Regular Season Championship in the school's  
21 history, for making it to the finals of the Atlantic 10 Conference Tournament, and for earning the  
22 number 7 seed in the NCAA Tournament, the highest in the school's history. We furthermore  
23 wish the Rhode Island Rams well in the NCAA Tournament and will be cheering them on to  
24 victory against Oklahoma in the first round of the NCAA Tournament; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
26 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mr. Dan Hurley, Head Coach, University of  
27 Rhode Island Men's Basketball Team.

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