

2018 -- H 8259

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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 WESTERLY UNIFIED BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING
THE RHODE ISLAND DIVISION III CHAMPIONSHIP**

Introduced By: Representatives Azzinaro, Kennedy, Filippi, Morgan, and Mattiello

Date Introduced: May 30, 2018

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Unified sports brings together students with intellectual and developmental
2 disabilities - athletes - and students without disabilities, called partners, in athletic competition. In
3 Unified Basketball, three athletes team up with two partners, with the athletes being allowed to
4 shoot while the partners rebound, dribble and pass. Unified sports is a way of bringing special
5 needs students together with their peers; and

6 WHEREAS, In the 2018 regular season, the Westerly Unified Team compiled a perfect
7 5-0 record. In the playoffs they advanced to the championship where they met the East
8 Providence Unified Basketball Team. In a thrilling game played at La Salle Academy, Westerly
9 completed a perfect season by defeating East Providence in overtime by the score of 35-31 to win
10 the Division III Championship. In a nail-biting game with numerous lead changes, Westerly
11 ultimately prevailed thanks to clutch baskets scored by Anthony Ramirez and Antwone Brown in
12 overtime; and

13 WHEREAS, Winning a state title in any sport is an immense achievement, one that
14 requires that every player on the team gives one hundred percent and works seamlessly with their
15 teammates as each member places team goals ahead of individual aspirations. The Westerly
16 Unified Team had these traits in abundance as they were led all season by the sterling play
17 provided by Alex Morgan, Ray Hill, Max Pittle, Jenna Dubois, Kesha Whitmore, Shelby Lewis,
18 Luke Fallon, Neil Damon, Mike Goldberg, Max Davis, Syonna Perry, Pierce Abosso, Jordan
19 Ballata, Brianna Falco, Jonathan Gaucione, JP Sergi, Brittany Gray, Peter Henry, Mitchell

1 Gomes, Andrew Salama, Anderson Manfred, Anthony Ramirez, Antwone Brown, Devin Gauvin
2 and Emily Gauvin. The Westerly Unified Basketball Team also benefited all season by the superb
3 coaching and leadership provided by Head Coach John Matthews and Assistant Coaches Zack
4 Zazarra and Heather Bishop; now, therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
6 Providence Plantations hereby congratulates the Westerly Unified Basketball Team for winning
7 the Rhode Island Division III Championship; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
9 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Head Coach John Matthews.

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