

2024 -- H 8198

=====
LC006021
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

HOUSE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING THE CLASSICAL HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM ON
WINNING THE 2024 DIVISION I STATE CHAMPIONSHIP AND THE 2024 RHODE
ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE BOYS BASKETBALL STATE TOURNAMENT

Introduced By: Representatives Slater, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Sanchez,
Kislak, DeSimone, O'Brien, Batista, and Perez

Date Introduced: April 24, 2024

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, The Classical Boys Basketball Team compiled one of the greatest seasons in
2 Rhode Island high school boys basketball history as they went a perfect 18-0 in Division I regular
3 season play against tough competition and then proceeded to win the 2024 Division I Boys
4 Championship. This led to the "Purple" earning the one seed in the State Tournament; and

5 WHEREAS, After earning a first-round bye in the State playoffs, the Classical Boys
6 Team continued their outstanding regular season play by dispatching East Providence in the Elite
7 8 at Rhode Island College by 8 points, and then proceeded to dispatch Lincoln by nine points in
8 their Final Four game, to set up a match against arch-rival and perennial basketball powerhouse
9 La Salle Academy for the State Championship; and

10 WHEREAS, In a thrilling title game and one of the greatest high school basketball games
11 ever played in Rhode Island history, the Classical Purple boys basketball squad prevailed in an
12 exhilarating game by one point, 67 to 66, to win the State Title; and

13 WHEREAS, In a back and forth game, the La Salle Rams dominated the action early,
14 jumping out to an eleven point lead before Classical made a furious rally to cut the deficit to two
15 points at halftime. The game was tied at the end of the third quarter and the last quarter was a
16 nail-biting affair with the Rams taking the lead with thirty seconds left and Classical having
17 possession for one last chance to clinch victory. In an amazing finish, Classical sophomore
18 Devin Sone hit a three-point shot from the left corner to win the championship for the Purple.
19 Other players that came up big for the Purple in the title game were Eliezer Delbrey with 17

1 points, Jordan Duke with 14 points, Azzy Harrison with 14 points, and Abdul Evans with ten
2 points; and

3 WHEREAS, Winning a State Championship in a team sport is an amazing and difficult
4 achievement requiring that every player on the team give everything they have at all times and
5 place team goals ahead of personal desires and aspirations. The Classical High School Boys
6 Basketball Team was blessed with an abundance of these qualities as they were led all season by
7 the outstanding play provided by Jarell Johnson, Jordan Duke, Abdul Evans, Azzy Harrison, Jake
8 Fitzpatrick, Devin Sone, Bam Adebayo, Michael Leblanc, Arnold Mukama, Emmanuel Greene,
9 Eliezer Delbrey, and Kenneth Romero. The Purple were also blessed all season to be led by the
10 outstanding coaching provided by Head Coach John Kavanagh, and Assistant Coaches Josh
11 Cabrera, Kealen Ives, Albert Schiavone, Dan Grzych, and Christopher O'Connell; now, therefore
12 be it

13 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
14 heartily congratulates the Classical Boys Basketball Team on winning the 2024 Rhode Island
15 Division I State Championship and the 2024 Rhode Island Interscholastic League Boys
16 Basketball State Tournament; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
18 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Classical Boys Basketball Team Head
19 Coach, John Kavanagh.

=====
LC006021
=====