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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021**

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

**CONGRATULATING THE PORTSMOUTH BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM ON WINNING  
THE 2021 RHODE ISLAND DIVISION II STATE CHAMPIONSHIP**

Introduced By: Senator James Arthur Seveney

Date Introduced: March 11, 2021

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1           WHEREAS, After finishing with a strong 7-2 regular season record, the Portsmouth  
2 Patriots Boys Basketball Team entered the Rhode Island Division II State playoffs on a mission  
3 to repeat as champions; and

4           WHEREAS, After easily dispatching Lincoln by the score of 56 to 34 in the Play-in-  
5 Game, Portsmouth faced a tough Tolman squad in the Quarter-Finals and, in a hard-fought game,  
6 emerged victorious by the score of 66-56. In the Semi-Finals, Portsmouth faced one-seed East  
7 Greenwich, led by their sharpshooting star Jack McMullen, and upset the Avengers by the score  
8 of 64-54 thanks in part to the tenacious defense provided by Portsmouth senior Sam Bielawa who  
9 held McMullen to only ten points scored. Portsmouth also benefited from the eighteen points  
10 provided by guard Ben Hurd, and showed their championship grit by coming back from a nine  
11 point deficit to win and advance to the Title game; and

12           WHEREAS, In the Championship match against Burrillville, a team known for playing  
13 superb defense, Portsmouth broke open what had been a tight game when Senior Tim Chlaupek,  
14 hobbled for much of the season with an injured knee, exploded in the second half and provided  
15 much-needed offense to lead the Patriots to a 51-36 victory. With Portsmouth down by seven  
16 points in the third quarter, Mr. Chlaupek went on an offensive spree, scoring in all kinds of ways  
17 from hook shots to a stepback three pointer, finishing with sixteen points and guiding Portsmouth  
18 to victory and back to back State Titles; and

19           WHEREAS, Winning a State Championship is a difficult accomplishment, one than can

1 only be achieved if everyone on the team gives their all and puts personal aspirations and wants  
2 behind team goals. The Patriots had those qualities in abundance as they were led all season by  
3 the important contributions made by Marcus Evans, Calvin Lucenti, Benny Hurd, Luke Hyder,  
4 Jack Downing, Luke Brennan, Sam Bielawa, Jeff Brady, Vincent Zhang, Nean Tullson, Owen  
5 Gugliotta, Andrew Perry, Jack Bielawa, and Tim Chlaupek, and the outstanding leadership  
6 provided by Head Coach Joe Occhi; now, therefore be it

7           RESOLVED, That this senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby congratulates the  
8 Portsmouth Boys Basketball Team on winning the 2021 Rhode Island Division II State  
9 Championship, and be it further

10           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
11 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mr. Joe Occhi, Head coach, Portsmouth Boys  
12 Basketball Team.

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