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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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SENATE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING THE RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM ON  
WINNING THE 2014 LITTLE EAST CONFERENCE MEN'S BASKETBALL  
TOURNAMENT

Introduced By: Senators Ruggerio, and Goodwin

Date Introduced: March 04, 2014

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1           WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Men's Basketball team entered the 2014 Little East  
2 Conference Tournament as a decided underdog but stunned college basketball observers by  
3 defeating an Eastern Connecticut team that had compiled an undefeated record in conference  
4 play; and

5           WHEREAS, After compiling a 17-8 regular season record and going 11-3 in regular  
6 season conference play, the Rhode Island College Anchormen entered the 2014 Little East  
7 Conference Tournament with something to prove. After defeating Southern Maine in a hard-  
8 fought first round game, and dispatching UMass Dartmouth in the semi-finals, Rhode Island  
9 College faced an Eastern Connecticut team that went undefeated in regular season conference  
10 play and defeated Rhode Island College twice in the regular season. Adding to the difficulty of  
11 the task facing Rhode Island College was the fact that the game was being played on the road, at  
12 Eastern Connecticut; and

13           WHEREAS, In one of the greatest victories in the history of Rhode Island College  
14 Basketball, the Anchormen attacked Eastern Connecticut from the start with an aggressive,  
15 swarming defense that caused Eastern Connecticut to commit 17 turnovers, en route to a  
16 convincing 70-61 victory by Rhode Island College to earn the sixth Little East Conference  
17 Tournament Championship in the history of Rhode Island College Men's Basketball; and

18           WHEREAS, Rhode Island College took an early 7-4 lead on a three-point shot by Senior  
19 guard Tom DeCiantis, a lead Rhode Island College would not relinquish. Rhode Island College's

1 victory was a true team effort. The Little East 2014 Tournament Most Outstanding Player, Junior  
2 Forward Chris Burton, chipped in twelve points, five rebounds, three steals and two blocked  
3 shots, Junior Guard Eric Alleyne scored a team-high 19 points on seven of ten shooting, Junior  
4 Forward Victor Smith added 17 points, seven rebounds, with eight of eleven shooting, Senior  
5 Guard Tom DeCiantis scored seven points and grabbed five rebounds, Senior Guard Michael  
6 Palumbo passed out a game high five assists, and Freshman Forward Terrance Tribble  
7 contributed eight vital points and six crucial rebounds off the bench; and

8 WHEREAS, This great victory by the Rhode Island College Men's Basketball Team was  
9 momentous for numerous reasons including the fact that with the Rhode Island College Women's  
10 Basketball Team also winning the 2014 Little East Conference Tournament, this marked only the  
11 second time in league history that a single school has won both the men's and women's Little East  
12 Conference Tournament in the same year; and

13 WHEREAS, Winning a team championship in any sport requires that every member of  
14 the team is completely dedicated to giving their all and sacrificing individual desires in the cause  
15 of team goals. The Rhode Island College Basketball Team had that in abundance with the  
16 contributions provided by Eric Alleyne, John Gause, Tom DeCiantis, Chris Burton, Victor Smith,  
17 Nyheem Sanders, Jazz Robinson, Austin Cilley, Michael Palumbo, Terrance Tribble, Jacob Page  
18 and Mike Neal, as well as the innovative coaching and outstanding leadership provided by Head  
19 Coach Bob Walsh, and Assistant Coaches Mike Romano and Anthony Leonelli. We wish the  
20 Rhode Island College Men's Basketball Team good fortune as they move on to play in the NCAA  
21 Division III Men's Basketball Tournament for the eighth consecutive season; now, therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
23 hereby congratulates the Rhode Island College Men's Basketball Team on winning the 2014  
24 Little East Conference Men's Basketball 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 Rhode Island College Men's Basketball Head  
27 Coach Bob Walsh.

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