

No. R-348. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2009 Black River High School Presidents boys' soccer team on winning the school's third consecutive Division IV championship.

(H.C.R.253)

Offered by: Representative Devereux of Mount Holly

Offered by: Senators Nitka, Campbell and McCormack

Whereas, the boys' soccer team at Black River High School had clinched two consecutive Division IV championships in 2007 and 2008, and

Whereas, winning a third straight title would replicate the school's girls' soccer team's comparable success across the 2006–2008 seasons, and

Whereas, the Presidents boys' soccer team, continuing a friendly rivalry, demonstrated that it is as adept as the girls' team at executing a triple play on the championship circuit, and

Whereas, in the 2009 playoff competition, the Presidents were seeded fourth among all the competitors, and

Whereas, not to anyone's surprise, Black River High School was one of two contenders in the 2009 Division IV championship game in which it faced a stiff challenge from Sharon Academy, and

Whereas, despite the Presidents' valiant scoring attempts, the first half of the game concluded in a scoreless tie, and

Whereas, in the second half of the game, at the 43rd minute of play, Black River broke the scoreless tie as it sent the ball into the scoring zone for the game's first goal, and

Whereas, the Presidents' narrow 1–0 lead was ended with just 37 seconds remaining in regulation play as Sharon scored a goal that tied the game at one–all, and

Whereas, two overtime periods still left the 1–1 tie firmly on the scoreboard, and resorting to a penalty kick round became a necessity for deciding the game's winner, and

Whereas, Black River won this exciting and unanticipated penalty kick competition 4–2, and

Whereas, although the closely matched contest against Sharon Academy lasted longer than anticipated, the Black River boys' soccer team went home to Ludlow with its third consecutive Division IV championship, and

Whereas, the 2009 roster of great Black River boys' soccer players included Joshua Bickford, Benjamin Farrow, Jake Goraj, James Greenwood, Chris Kowalski, Kippie Turco, Jake Covell, Victor Cucullo, Justin Cucullo, Cody Fortuna, Carson Kathan, Kyle Milligan, Dillon Normyle, Riken Patel, Mathias Philipsen, Tyler Schaub, Jesse Gillette, Josh Paul, Tim Rumrill, and Noah Schmidt, and

Whereas, coach Tony Valente along with assistant coach Ron Wood and goal-keeper coach Greg Kathan were great instructors, and the team benefited from viewing the great work of videographer Bruce Perry, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the 2009 Black River High School Presidents boys' soccer team on winning the school's third consecutive Division IV championship, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Tony Valente at Black River High School.