

No. R-285. House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2009 Essex High School Hornets Division I championship softball team.

(H.C.R.198)

Offered by: Representatives Myers of Essex, Evans of Essex, Heath of Westford, Jerman of Essex and Waite-Simpson of Essex

Whereas, as the Division I softball champions in 2007 and 2008, the young women who played for the 2009 Essex Hornets softball team were eager to take to the diamond and enthusiastically defend their title, and

Whereas, with a fantastic 2009 season of undefeated competition, the Hornets were sporting a great 18–0 record as they entered the penultimate playoff game, and

Whereas, this semifinal contest tested the Hornets' perseverance as they battled 4th-ranked Mount Mansfield through 12 challenging innings of top-notch, largely defensive, softball until an Essex double drove a Hornet runner across home plate for the tie-breaking run, and

Whereas, a highlight of the championship game, played at Poultney's Veterans Field against Mount Anthony Union High School, was the performance of the Hornet pitcher who worked the entire game and permitted only one hit, a bunt, and

Whereas, Essex saved its offensive punch for the sixth inning, and

Whereas, a Mount Anthony error opened the inning, allowing the lead-off Hornet to reach first base, creating an open invitation for Essex hitters who then followed with a solid single and a bunt to load the bases, and

Whereas, the next Essex batter hit into a field's choice play, enabling the Hornets to score the game's first run, and five more runs crossed the plate before the sixth inning was over, based on a second Mount Anthony error and two more Essex singles, and

Whereas, when the game's final out had occurred, Essex was the proud owner of a 6–0 victory, its third consecutive Division I softball championship, and an undefeated 20–0 season, and

Whereas, all the 2009 softball-playing Hornets, including Regan Myrick, Olivia Horton, Bethany Falls, Sam Tavlin, Laura Neal, Alexis Perry, Hayley Eagan, Stephanie Frank, Hannah Puisto, Paige Samson, Emily Lounsbury, Lauren Cabanaw, and Ashley McLaren, played as true champions, and

Whereas, Head Coach Bill O'Neil and assistant coaches Randy Wells, Bernie Couture, and Brent Farnham were thrilled with the season's success, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the 2009 Essex High School Hornets Division I championship softball team, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Bill O'Neil at Essex High School.