

No. R-438. House concurrent resolution congratulating the Rice Memorial High School 2012 Division I championship girls' basketball team.

(H.C.R.336)

Offered by: Representatives Pugh of South Burlington, Till of Jericho, Bissonnette of Winooski, Aswad of Burlington, Atkins of Winooski, Bouchard of Colchester, Brennan of Colchester, Donovan of Burlington, Head of South Burlington, Krowinski of Burlington, Kupersmith of South Burlington, Munger of South Burlington, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Pearson of Burlington, Ram of Burlington, Wizowaty of Burlington and Wright of Burlington

Whereas, the Rice Memorial High School Green Knights girls' basketball team sought to repeat its 2011 triumph as Division I champions and, despite moments of midseason hesitation, was seeded second in the playoffs, and

Whereas, the Green Knights earned a championship game berth and once again confronted the Redhawks of Champlain Valley Union High School (CVU), and

Whereas, as the first and second seeds in this year's post-regular-season play, these returning squads were the perfect pairing for the decisive game, and

Whereas, because each school is located in the Burlington metropolitan area, large contingents of loyal fans from both schools cheered for their favorite team at the University of Vermont's Patrick Gymnasium, and

Whereas, defeating CVU in 2012 proved a daunting assignment as the Green Knights lost the lead in the middle of the first quarter, and with only 5:09 left of regulation play, Rice was still behind 33–28, and

Whereas, realizing the entire season's fate was to be determined in a matter of minutes, the Green Knights ignited for a quick offensive drive that left them on top 34–33, and

Whereas, following a successful Rice free throw, CVU responded with a shot from the floor to tie the game at 35—all with the clock showing a mere 3:33 remaining in the fourth quarter, and

Whereas, a Rice player then executed a reserve layup along the baseline to reclaim the lead for the Green Knights, and from that moment, they retained the scoring advantage until the final buzzer, and

Whereas, with an admirable perseverance and comeback spirit, Rice defeated CVU 46–41 and clinched a second consecutive Division I girls’ basketball crown, and

Whereas, Green Knights Carolyn Snell, Ellen Boucher, Michelle Bolger, Alaina Sarvak, Tomilayo Akinpetide, Katie Kowalski, Ellie Zuk, Hailee Barron, Cassidy Derda, Gemma Cirignano, Jamie Bunch, Emma Chicoine, and Katie Hetling played an exciting 19–5 season, and head coach Tim Rice and assistant coaches Mark Pfaff, Lindsey Ellis, and Noelle Guarnieri, trainer Meg Quiet, and team managers Hannah Durkee, Paige Levinsky, and Sydnee Lyman were always present to assist the Green Knight players, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Rice Memorial High School 2012 Division I championship girls’ basketball team, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Rice Memorial High School.