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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

H O U S 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: Representatives Cortvriend, McGaw, Donovan, Edwards, Ajello, and
Morales

Date Introduced: March 25, 2021

Referred To: House read and passed

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 House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
8 congratulates the Portsmouth Boys Basketball Team on winning the 2021 Rhode Island Division
9 II State 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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