

NO. R-82. HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING
ESSEX HIGH SCHOOL COACH WILLIAM O'NEIL ON HIS 1,000TH CAREER
VICTORY.

(H.C.R.4)

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

Whereas, the art of coaching an interscholastic sports team at a Vermont
high school entails knowledge of the sport, patience, perseverance, and,
ideally, a committed squad of young athletes, and

Whereas, a successful coaching career in one sport is laudable but hardly
unusual; however, to establish a record of multiple state championships in
three different sports places an individual in a small and special set of high
school coaches, and

Whereas, Coach Bill O'Neil of Essex High School has achieved amazing
success in interscholastic sports coaching in Vermont as his teams have won a
combined 21 state championships, placing him at the top rank among his peers,
and

Whereas, his acumen as an athletic strategist began in 1973 when he
assumed the leadership role of Essex's boys' ice hockey team, and since the
puck was first dropped on center ice before a Bill O'Neil-coached Essex game,
his Hornet hockey teams have won the state crown at the conclusion of 13
different seasons, and

Whereas, Coach Bill O'Neil broadened his coaching horizons in 1979,
adding the girls' soccer team to his athletic leadership portfolio, and he has
inspired these young athletes to six state championships, and

Whereas, still in search of new challenges, in 1992, he assumed responsibility for the school's softball team which on two occasions became the state champions, and

Whereas, on Tuesday, October 14, 2008, the Essex High School girls' soccer team defeated BFA-St. Albans 4–0 at the Collins-Perley Sports Center in St. Albans, and equally important, this win marked Coach Bill O'Neil's 1,000th combined sports career victory, including over 325 in girl's soccer, 485 in boys' ice hockey, and 185 in softball, and

Whereas, beginning with the 2006 boys' hockey title, Coach Bill O'Neil's squads earned state titles in five consecutive seasons, encompassing his different sports, and

Whereas, Coach Bill O'Neil's 1,000th athletic victory at Essex High School is a memorable accomplishment meriting special commendation, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Essex High School Coach William O'Neil on his 1,000th career victory, and be it further

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