

No. R-369. House concurrent resolution congratulating William O'Neil on his 2018 induction into the National Federation of State High School Associations' Hall of Fame.

(H.C.R.297)

Offered by: Representatives Myers of Essex, Bancroft of Westford, Dunn of Essex, Giambatista of Essex, Houghton of Essex, Christie of Hartford, McFaun of Barre Town, Noyes of Wolcott, Parent of St. Albans Town, Poirier of Barre City, and Read of Fayston

Whereas, for 44 years (1973–2017), Bill O'Neil, was a superb varsity sports coach at Essex High School and an essential factor in his teams' decades of success on the hockey arena ice, softball diamond, and soccer field, and

Whereas, each of his distinctive Division I coaching records is impressive on its own accord, and

Whereas, for 36 years (1979–2015), Bill O'Neil served as the Essex High School girls' soccer coach, compiling an impressive record, tallying 396 victories, 176 losses, and 52 ties, and

Whereas, for 22 years (in 1979 and from 1992 through 2012) as the Hornets' softball coach, Bill O'Neil's teams were scoring far more runs than their opponents, earning 261 wins in comparison to the far fewer 124 defeats, and

Whereas, Bill O'Neil is most closely associated with the Hornets' boys' ice hockey team that he coached for an amazing 44 years, concluding his great tenure with 14 titles, 636 wins, 292 setbacks, and 33 ties, and

Whereas, in 2006, Bill O'Neil was named the national high school boys' ice hockey coach of the year, and

Whereas, in 2007–2008, all three of his teams scored a Division I championship, a rarity, if not a unique occurrence, in Vermont, and

Whereas, in combination, Bill O'Neil's winning statistical legacy amounts to an enviable 1,293 victories, 592 losses, and 85 ties, a record that may be insurmountable for any varsity coach now working at a Vermont high school, and

Whereas, although Bill O'Neil takes great pleasure in the success of his teams and their many championships, he assigns much of the credit to the athletic directors and assistant coaches with whom he was associated, and

Whereas, Bill O'Neil, who is continuing his role as an outstanding English teacher at Essex High School, is a pillar of the high school athletics coaching community, and in 2018, the National Federation of State High School Associations is inducting him into its hall of fame, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates William O'Neil on his induction into the National Federation of State High School Associations' Hall of Fame, and be it further

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