

## 2013-J2623

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Webster Thomas Boys Varsity Basketball Coach Bill O'Rourke, Jr. upon the occasion of his retirement after 35 distinguished years in coaching

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to act, in accord with its long-standing traditions, to commend notable athletic coaches who serve the youth of this great Empire State, and who have distinguished themselves and their schools through outstanding commitment and exemplary athletic achievement; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Webster Thomas Boys Varsity Basketball Coach Bill O'Rourke, Jr. upon the occasion of his retirement after 35 distinguished years in coaching; and

WHEREAS, Bill O'Rourke, Jr. was an all-star player for his father at Webster, then went on to a stellar college career at St. John Fisher College and was drafted by the NBA's New York Knicks; however, teaching and coaching, first at the combined district school and then at Webster Thomas, soon became his profession; and

WHEREAS, A Section V Basketball Hall of Famer, Bill O'Rourke, Jr. coached the Webster boys at the varsity level for 35 years; he succeeded his father, the late Bill O'Rourke, Sr. who spent 28 years on the bench and like his son is also a member of the Section V Basketball Hall of Fame; in addition, Bill O'Rourke, Jr.'s brother, Tom, is a Section V Hall of Famer; and

WHEREAS, Prior to coaching varsity, Bill O'Rourke, Jr. coached seventh and eighth graders for two years and the Webster junior varsity for seven, with his father as the school's varsity coach; and

WHEREAS, Bill O'Rourke, Jr., 65, announced his retirement after posting a mark of 468-272 since 1979 for the Webster schools; add in what

his late father, Bill O'Rourke, Sr. accomplished, and father and son won 811 games in Webster from 1950 to 2013; and

WHEREAS, A true asset to society, Coach Bill O'Rourke, Jr. has educated and touched the lives of many students during his tenure; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife and their three daughters, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Coach Bill O'Rourke, Jr.'s positive demeanor, selfless commitment, and caring concern have contributed to his enduring success as a coach and mentor, earning him the just respect and admiration of his community, his peers, and the athletes he has so ably coached; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Webster Thomas Boys Basketball Coach Bill O'Rourke, Jr. upon the occasion of his retirement after 35 distinguished years in coaching; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Coach Bill O'Rourke, Jr.