

## 2013-J4564

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating the Union College Men's Hockey Team and Coach Rick Bennett upon the occasion of capturing the NCAA Division 1 Championship

WHEREAS, Excellence and success in competitive sports can be achieved only through strenuous practice, team play and team spirit, nurtured by dedicated coaching and strategic planning; and

WHEREAS, Athletic competition enhances the moral and physical development of the young people of this State, preparing them for the future by instilling in them the value of teamwork, encouraging a standard of healthy living, imparting a desire for success and developing a sense of fair play and competition; and

WHEREAS, The Union College Men's Hockey Team are the NCAA Division 1 Champions; they defeated Minnesota with an impressive 7-4 victory before a crowd of 18,742, on Saturday, April 12, 2014, at the Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia; this championship earned Union College its first NCAA Division 1 Championship in any sport; and

WHEREAS, The Union Dutchmen Hockey Team advanced to the championship game after defeating Boston College 5-4 on Thursday, April 10, 2014, before more than 17,000 spectators; and

WHEREAS, Loyally and enthusiastically supported by family, fans, friends and the community at large, the Dutchmen finished their outstanding season with a record of 32-6-4, the most wins in the 71-season history of Union Hockey; in addition, they captured the ECAC regular season title as well as the ECAC hockey championship; and

WHEREAS, Four members of this extraordinary team received AHCA/CCM All-America Honors, they are: Mat Bodie and Shayne Gostisbehere, named to the East First Team, and Daniel Carr and Colin Stevens, named to the East Second Team; and

WHEREAS, Founded in 1795, Union College, located in Schenectady, New York, is a small liberal arts institution with an enrollment of approximately 2,100 full-time students; and

WHEREAS, The athletic talent displayed by this team is due in great part to the efforts of Coach Rick Bennett, a skilled and inspirational tutor, respected for his ability to develop potential into excellence; and

WHEREAS, The hallmarks of the Union College Men's Hockey Team, from the opening game of the season to participation in the championship, were a brotherhood of athletic ability, of good sportsmanship, of honor and of scholarship, demonstrating that these team players are second to none; and

WHEREAS, Athletically and academically, the Union team members have proven themselves to be an unbeatable combination of talents, reflecting favorably on their school; they are true role models for all collegiate athletic teams across the Nation; and

WHEREAS, Coach Rick Bennett, along with Assistant Coaches Joe Dumais and Jason Tapp, and Volunteer Assistant Coach John Ronan, have done a superb job in guiding, molding and inspiring the team members toward their goals; and

WHEREAS, Sports competition instills the values of teamwork, pride and accomplishment, and Coach Rick Bennett and the 27 outstanding athletes have clearly made a contribution to the spirit of excellence which is a tradition of their school; this impressive achievement is a source of considerable pride for the College, the City and County of Schenectady, and the entire State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate the Union College Men's Hockey Team; its members: Mark

Bennett, Mat Bodie, Daniel Carr, Daniel Ciampini, Sam Coatta, Nick Cruice, Theo DiPauli, Sebastien Gingras, Alex Gonye, Shayne Gostisbeh-  
ere, Matt Hatch, Noah Henry, Cole Ikkala, Matt Krug, Eli Lichtenwald,

Griffyn Martin, Max Novak, Dillon Pieri, Michael Pontarelli, David Roy, Alex Sakellaropoulos, Colin Stevens, Kevin Sullivan, Jeff Taylor, Charlie Vasaturo, Mike Vecchione, and Matt Wilkins; Coach Rick Bennett, Assistant Coaches Joe Dumais and Jason Tapp, and Volunteer Assistant Coach John Ronan on their outstanding season and overall team record; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Union College Men's Hockey Team and Coach Rick Bennett.