

2013-J4709

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring John "Carson" Cunningham upon the occasion of his retirement as Coach of the New Hartford High School Ice Hockey Team after 35 years of distinguished service

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend those 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 longstanding traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor John "Carson" Cunningham upon the occasion of his retirement as Coach of the New Hartford High School Ice Hockey Team after 35 years of distinguished service; his tremendous contributions will be celebrated at a special retirement dinner on Friday, May 2, 2014, at the Stonebridge Inn, New Hartford, New York; and

WHEREAS, John "Carson" Cunningham stepped down as Head Coach of the New Hartford High School Spartans in March 2014 after compiling a list of exceptional accomplishments; an overall record of 335-193-28, eight league titles, four Section III crowns, four regional and three New York State Public High School Athletic Association championships; and

WHEREAS, A native of New Hartford, John "Carson" Cunningham has transformed his love of ice hockey, begun at an early age on backyard ice rinks in his neighborhood, and developed as a junior high school and then New Hartford High School varsity player, into a priceless legacy of teaching, mentoring, and service to generations of student-athletes; and

WHEREAS, John "Carson" Cunningham got his hockey coaching start at Skaneateles High School after attending Herkimer County Community College and then to Cortland State; he returned to New Hartford High School and coached freshman football and girls gymnastics before spend-

ing 11 seasons as an assistant coach; he took over as Head Coach in 1990; and

WHEREAS, As Head Coach, John "Carson" Cunningham set a high bar for excellence, winning state titles in 1997, 2009, 2010, and 2014; this exceptional leader is widely admired for the tremendous rapport with young people that created outstanding teams, was named Coach of the Year several times in his career; and

WHEREAS, John "Carson" Cunningham, will play a continuing role in high school ice hockey as Section III chairman, as well as site chairman for the state tournament at the Utica Memorial Auditorium; and

WHEREAS, In addition, he will continue coaching the Spartans' softball team, which he has led to more than 400 victories and several sectional titles since 1983; and

WHEREAS, With his unremitting commitment to excellence, John "Carson" Cunningham has earned the just respect and admiration of his community, his peers and the outstanding athletes he has so ably coached; and

WHEREAS, John "Carson" Cunningham has clearly had an enduring impact on the youth at New Hartford High School, the community-at-large, and the New York State Public High School Association, and accordingly merits recognition and applause for his impressive dedication to others; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is pleased to have this opportunity to express its highest admiration for John "Carson" Cunningham and to wish

him continued success in all of his future endeavors; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Coach John "Carson" Cunningham upon the occasion of his retirement

after 35 years of distinguished service, and for his significant contributions to the uplift of youth in New York State; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Coach John "Carson" Cunningham.