

2013-J5662

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Hofstra University Softball Team Head Coach Bill Edwards upon the occasion of his retirement after 25 distinguished seasons 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 Hofstra University Softball Team Head Coach Bill Edwards upon the occasion of his retirement after 25 distinguished seasons in coaching; and

WHEREAS, Since 1990, Coach Bill Edwards has built a remarkable career with the Hofstra Softball program spanning 1,350 games, and including 15 NCAA Tournament appearances; and

WHEREAS, Under this esteemed man's guidance, Hofstra went from a below .500 team in 1989, to a nationally respected power that captured 18 postseason conference championships, including 10 Colonial Athletic Association titles; and

WHEREAS, Coach Bill Edwards has become renowned across the collegiate softball world both for helping his student-athletes achieve excellence on the field and in the classroom, and for transforming Hofstra into a nationally recognized program; and

WHEREAS, Coach Bill Edwards' teams have won a regular season or conference tournament title in 22 consecutive seasons entering the 2014 season; furthermore, his teams have won at least one game in each of their last 12 NCAA Tournament appearances, including this year's victory over Bryant in the first round of the tournament; and

WHEREAS, One of only 23 coaches to have reached 900 wins, Coach Bill Edwards finished his NCAA tenure with a 928-419-3 record, giving him the most wins of any program in the history of the Hofstra Department of Athletics; and

WHEREAS, The recipient of numerous awards and honors, Bill Edwards has been named Coach of the Year six consecutive times and Regional Coach of the Year 12 times during his career; in addition, he is a member of the Iona Hall of Fame for his outstanding work coaching men's hockey, and is also enshrined in the Suffolk Sports Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, A true asset to society, Coach Bill Edwards has educated and touched the lives of countless student-athletes during his lifetime; and

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

WHEREAS, Coach Bill Edwards' 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 Hofstra University Softball Team Head Coach Bill Edwards upon the occasion of his retirement after 25 distinguished seasons in coaching; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Coach Bill Edwards.