

## 2015-J5134

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating the Syracuse University Women's Basketball Team upon the occasion of its record-breaking season, which led them to the first National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Women's Championship game in program history

WHEREAS, Excellence and success in competitive sports can be achieved through strenuous practice, teamwork and a dedicated coaching staff; and  
WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to those student athletes within our midst who, by achieving outstanding success in athletic competition, have inspired and brought great pride to their college and community; 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 by developing a sense of fair play and competition; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate and recognize the Syracuse University Women's Basketball Team upon the occasion of its record-breaking season, which led them to the first National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Women's Championship game in program history; and

WHEREAS, Following its historic run to the NCAA championship game, the Syracuse University Women's Basketball Team, with an overall record of 30-8, shot to its highest ranking in program history in the USA TODAY Coaches Poll, reaching No. 3 nationwide; and

WHEREAS, The Syracuse University Women's Basketball Team also achieved the most wins in program history, as well as the program's first Sweet 16, Elite Eight, Final Four and NCAA championship game appearances; and

WHEREAS, On March 20, 2016, the No. 14/15 Syracuse University Women's Basketball Team fought its way to the program's first Sweet 16 appearance after defeating Albany 76-59 in the Carrier Dome; the win marked another record-breaking day in a historic season for Syracuse with the team's 27th victory and with the senior class earning its 96th win; and

WHEREAS, At the Sweet 16 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota , the Syracuse University Women's Basketball Team upset top-seeded South Carolina 80-72 to advance to the Elite Eight, where it then landed a 89-67 victory over Tennessee, with the impressive contest setting yet another program record for the points scored in an NCAA Tournament game by the Syracuse University Orange; and

WHEREAS, Further history was made when the Syracuse University Women's Basketball Team hustled its way to the NCAA Tournament final with a dominant 80-59 victory over the Washington Huskies at the Final Four in Indianapolis on April 3rd; the victory placed the program one win away from a national title and marked the first 30-win season in program history, giving the 2016 Syracuse University Women's Basketball senior class 99 wins for their collegiate careers; and

WHEREAS, Though the Syracuse University Women's Basketball Team lost the NCAA tournament title to the University of Connecticut (UConn), the team played hard, never gave up, and kept their heads high; and

WHEREAS, The outstanding athletic talent, teamwork and sportsmanship displayed by the Syracuse University Women's Basketball Team is due in great part to the skilled and supportive efforts of Head Coach Quentin Hillsman, Associate Head Coach Vonn Read, Assistant Coach Tammi Reiss, Assistant Coach Cedric Solice, and Multimedia and Technology Director Ryan Nichols; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the season, the support of fans within both the Syracuse University and Central New York communities significantly grew in enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Members of the Syracuse University Women's Basketball Team

rallied behind one another in establishing a sisterhood of athletic ability, good sportsmanship, honor and scholarship, while demonstrating that these team players are of the highest caliber, while contributing to the spirit of excellence that is a tradition of their university; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate the Syracuse University Women's Basketball Team; its outstanding members: Alexis Peterson, Julia Chandler, Maggie Morrison, Jade Phillips, Isabella Slim, Cornelia Fondren, Aliyah Parris, Brianna Butler, Savannah Crocetti, Brittney Sykes, Danielle Minott, Taylor Ford, Brandi Fowler, Davida Dale, Abby Grant, Briana Day, and Bria Day; and Head Coach Quentin Hillsman, Associate Head Coach Vonn Read, Assistant Coach Tammi Reiss, Assistant Coach Cedric Solice, and Multimedia and Technology Director Ryan Nichols on their outstanding season and overall team record; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to members of the Syracuse University Women's Basketball Team, and the aforementioned coaches and staff.