

2017-J5321

Senate Resolution No. 5321

BY: Senator AKSHAR

CONGRATULATING Ben Nelson upon the occasion of his induction into the New York State Public High School Athletic Association's Hall of Fame Class of 2018

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend those notable teachers, coaches and administrators within our midst, who serve the youth of this great Empire State, and who have distinguished themselves and their communities through their exemplary athletic achievements and their outstanding professional commitments; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Ben Nelson upon the occasion of his induction into the New York State Public High School Athletic Association's Hall of Fame Class of 2018; and

WHEREAS, Ben Nelson, a respected veteran administrator, Bainbridge resident, and long-time head of Section 4 sports, will be inducted into the New York State Public High School Athletic Association's Hall of Fame Class of 2018 at its Summer Meeting on Wednesday, July 25, 2018, in Lake Placid, New York; and

WHEREAS, After serving as Oxford Academy's Director of Athletics from 1988 to 1998, Ben Nelson went on to become the state's longest

serving Section 4 Executive Director, overseeing all operations of the section; and

WHEREAS, Ben Nelson has been instrumental in the significant improvement of Section 4's finances and has been the catalyst for bringing numerous NYSPHSAA championship events to the section, including boys basketball, baseball, field hockey, boys soccer, outdoor track & field and cross country; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, he has been an integral part of exemplary programs in the areas of sports safety, academics and sportsmanship, and serves the NYSPHSAA on such committees as its Boys Basketball State Committee; and

WHEREAS, In 2014, Ben Nelson was elected into the Section 4 Hall of Fame and the Basketball Coaches Association of New York (BCANY) Hall of Fame; he is BCANY Assistant Executive Director and has served on the organization's Board since its inception; and

WHEREAS, Ben Nelson has been the proud recipient of numerous awards and accolades, including the Otis Sennett Award of Excellence and Distinguished Service Awards from the New York State Athletic Administrators Association; and

WHEREAS, In addition, he was honored with the Golden Apple Award, Camp Dudley Man of the Year Award and Southern Tier Basketball Officials Dedication Award; and

WHEREAS, A letterman in baseball, basketball, track, volleyball and football before graduating from Bainbridge-Guilford High School in 1958, Ben Nelson played basketball at Trinity Pawling, Colgate and Louisiana University; he also spent a year in Hannover, Germany as a player-coach

for a Division II team; and

WHEREAS, Following his playing days, Ben Nelson began contributing to youth and high school athletics during summers at Camp Dudley, where he's been a coach or administrator for more than six decades; he also served as a multi-sport coach at Oxford Academy, where he taught math; and

WHEREAS, During his illustrious tenure at Oxford Academy, Ben Nelson coached boys and girls varsity basketball, cross country, and track & field teams to Section 4 Class C and Pioneer League Championships; and

WHEREAS, Ben Nelson has dedicated a lifetime of giving back to his community and improving the quality of youth athletics; it is the custom of this Legislative Body that when individuals of such accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Ben Nelson upon the occasion of his induction into the New York State Public High School Athletic Association's Hall of Fame Class of 2018; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Ben Nelson.