

2009-J3440

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Jim Boeheim upon the occasion of his 800th career win as Head Coach of the Syracuse University Men's Basketball Team

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend those illustrious individuals of distinguished purpose whose lives have been committed to the pursuit of excellence and who bring great pride to the citizens of this great Empire State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the intent of this Legislative Body to honor Jim Boeheim upon the occasion of his 800th career win as Head Coach of the Syracuse University Men's Basketball Team; and

WHEREAS, Jim Boeheim is an Upstate New York native from the Wayne County town of Lyons; he began his career with the Syracuse University Men's Basketball Team as a walk-on player in 1962 and by the time he was a senior, he had become a co-captain and led his team to the NCAA Tournament for the second time in school history; and

WHEREAS, After graduating from Syracuse University, Jim Boeheim had a brief professional playing career until he turned his focus to coaching when he joined the Syracuse Men's Basketball coaching staff as a graduate assistant in 1969; and

WHEREAS, Jim Boeheim was named Head Coach of the Syracuse Orange at the start of the 1976-1977 season, and he obtained his first career victory with a win over Harvard on November 26, 1976; and

WHEREAS, Thirty-three years later, on November 9, 2009, in front of a home crowd at the Syracuse University Carrier Dome, Syracuse defeated the SUNY Albany Great Danes to open the 2009-2010 regular season, and secured Coach Boeheim's 800th career victory; and

WHEREAS, In winning his 800th game, Jim Boeheim became just the eighth coach in NCAA history to obtain 800 victories and is one of only three active coaches to reach the 800-win milestone; in addition, he is also one of only four coaches to win 800 games at just one school; and

WHEREAS, Jim Boeheim has proved he is one of the greatest coaches of all time by leading all of his teams to a winning record, including 31

seasons with 20 or more wins; by securing his 31st 20-win season with a 28-10 finish last year, Coach Boeheim passed Dean Smith to become the coach with the most 20-win or better seasons in men's college basketball history; and

WHEREAS, Coach Boeheim is also the winningest coach in Big East Conference history, with 356 conference wins, which includes five Big East Conference Tournament championships and seven Big East Conference regular season championships; he has also been named Big East Coach of the year three times; and

WHEREAS, Under Coach Boeheim's direction, Syracuse University has made it to the post-season 32 times, including 26 trips to the NCAA Tournament where they made appearances in three championship games; in 2003, Coach Boeheim led the Syracuse Orange to its first ever NCAA National Championship Title with an 81-78 victory over the University of Kansas Jayhawks; and

WHEREAS, On February 24, 2004, Syracuse University honored Coach Boeheim for his coaching success by naming the Carrier Dome Court, Jim Boeheim Court; he was honored on a national level in 2001 when he was named National Coach of the Year by USA Basketball, and again in September of 2005 when he was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, In November of 2005, Jim Boeheim continued to add to his Hall of Fame resume when he was named as an Assistant Coach for the USA

Basketball Men's National Team for a three-year term; his coaching expertise helped lead Team USA to an undefeated record in the 2008 Olympics, culminating in a 118-107 victory over Spain in the gold medal game; in addition, he not only helped Team USA win a gold medal, but also to restore pride and respect in American basketball; and

WHEREAS, Jim Boeheim is someone to be admired for his entire career, not only because he has served as a great coach, but also for being a first class person; he has always handled himself with class and dignity in the face of adversity, and he also deserves to be commended for being a great community leader, by making selfless contributions to numerous charity organizations, including Coaches vs. Cancer, for which Jim and his wife, Juli have been top fundraisers, nationwide, for many years; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to pay

tribute to Jim Boeheim on his 800th career victory, thank him for his contributions to basketball and the Central New York community, and to wish him continued success in the future; and be it further
RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Coach Jim Boeheim.