

2011-J2597

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Dallas Mavericks' Head Coach and St. Lawrence County native, Rick Carlisle upon the occasion of capturing the NBA Championship on June 12, 2011

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the people of the State of New York to recognize those individuals within our midst who have contributed greatly to the quality of our lives by providing exceptional leadership and a commitment to excellence; and

WHEREAS, Excellence and success in competitive sports at the professional level can be achieved only through strenuous practice, team play and team spirit, nurtured by dedicated and outstanding coaching and strategic planning; and

WHEREAS, On June 12, 2011, the Dallas Mavericks, coached by Rick Carlisle, clinched the 2011 National Basketball Association title in six games with a 105-95 victory over the Miami Heat; and

WHEREAS, Born Richard Preston Carlisle, Rick Carlisle was brought up in Lisbon, New York, the son of Preston and Joan Carlisle who still reside in St. Lawrence County where they remain involved and committed members of their community; and

WHEREAS, Playing two years of college basketball at the University of Maine before transferring to the University of Virginia where he was co-captain of the basketball team, Rick Carlisle averaged 12.5 points and 3.3 rebounds per game in his outstanding college career; and

WHEREAS, Upon graduation from college, Rick Carlisle was drafted by the Boston Celtics in the third round of the 1984 NBA draft; while a member of the Celtics, he played alongside Larry Bird on the Celtics' 1986 NBA Championship team; and

WHEREAS, Rick Carlisle also played for Bill Musselman's Albany Patroons prior to signing as a free agent with the New York Knickerbock-

ers under coach Rick Pitino; in 1989, he was signed as an unrestricted free agent by the New Jersey Nets; he tallied 422 points, 141 rebounds and 201 assists in 188 games during his NBA career; and

WHEREAS, Embarking on a distinguished NBA coaching career in 1989, Rick Carlisle joined the New Jersey Nets as an assistant coach; in 1994, he was an assistant on the coaching staff of the Portland Trail Blazers under Head Coach P. J. Carlesimo; and

WHEREAS, In 1997, Rick Carlisle joined the Indiana Pacers as an assistant coach for his former teammate, Larry Bird; during his tenure as a Pacers' assistant coach, he helped them to two of their best seasons in history; and

WHEREAS, Appointed Head Coach of the Detroit Pistons in 2001, Rick Carlisle guided the Pistons to new heights and was named NBA Coach of the Year in 2002; he also served as the Head Coach of the Indiana Pacers and as a studio analyst for ESPN; and

WHEREAS, In 2008, Rick Carlisle was appointed Head Coach of the Dallas Mavericks; in the 2010-2011 NBA season, he coached the Mavericks to a sweep of the two-time defending champion Los Angeles Lakers in the NBA Western Conference semifinals, and then to a 4-1 series win over the Oklahoma City Thunder in the NBA Western Conference finals; and

WHEREAS, In the best of seven 2011 NBA finals series against the Miami Heat, the Dallas Mavericks, under Head Coach Rick Carlisle, emerged victorious, winning the title in six games, capping an extraordinarily successful pro basketball coaching career for this New York native; and

WHEREAS, Rick Carlisle is one of a rare and select few in the history of the NBA to capture championships as both a player and coach, thereby joining these other legendary professional basketball figures; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the entire period of his outstanding coaching and playing career, a period of constructive involvement, Rick Carlisle has stood constant in dignity, good grace and humor, and has earned the respect and admiration of his players, opponents, colleagues, family and

friends; and

WHEREAS, Rick Carlisle and his wife, Donna, are the proud parents of their beloved daughter, Abby; and

WHEREAS, The athletic talent and success displayed by the 2011 NBA Champion Dallas Mavericks is due in great part to the efforts of Head Coach Rick Carlisle; he has done a superb job in guiding, molding and inspiring the Mavericks toward their goal of winning the 2011 NBA title; and

WHEREAS, Sports competition instills the values of teamwork, pride and accomplishment, and Head Coach Rick Carlisle has clearly made a contribution to the spirit of excellence which is a tradition of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Dallas Mavericks' Head Coach Rick Carlisle upon the occasion of capturing the NBA Championship; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dallas Mavericks' Head Coach Rick Carlisle.