

2015-J3840

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of John Patrick Riley, Jr., legendary hockey coach, distinguished citizen, and devoted member of his community

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to citizens of the State of New York whose lifework and civic endeavors have served to enhance the quality of life in their communities and the great State of New York; and

WHEREAS, John Patrick Riley, Jr., a resident of Marston Mills, Massachusetts, died on Wednesday, February 3, 2016, at the age of 95; and

WHEREAS, Born on June 15, 1920, in Medford, Massachusetts, John Patrick Riley, Jr. was the son of the late John P. and Elizabeth F. (Cunningham) Riley; as a young man, he attended local schools and was a three sport athlete at Medford High School; and

WHEREAS, After graduation, John Patrick Riley, Jr. entered Dartmouth College where he played hockey before enlisting to proudly serve his country as a combat Navy pilot in the Pacific during World War II; upon returning home, he resumed playing hockey, and was Captain of the 1947 Dartmouth hockey team, as well as a vital part of its historic 46 game win streak; and

WHEREAS, Following the completion of his studies, John Patrick Riley, Jr. played for the 1948 United States Winter Olympic Hockey Team which competed at St. Moritz, Switzerland; he was also a player/coach for the 1949 United States National Team which played in Stockholm, Sweden; and

WHEREAS, In 1950, John Patrick Riley, Jr. began his illustrious 36-year career as the Head Coach of the West Point Military Academy Hockey team; he also served as the school's Assistant Athletic Director, and retired in 1986 with a career record of 541-242-21 and the second most wins as a hockey coach in NCAA history; and

WHEREAS, A vital contributor to the success of the United States Olympic Hockey Program, John Patrick Riley, Jr. led the 1960 Men's Olympic Hockey Team to stunning upsets over Canada, the Soviet Union, and Czechoslovakia, as the Americans captured their first ever Gold Medal in the sport of Hockey; and

WHEREAS, The recipient of numerous awards and honors, this esteemed leader has been inducted into the Army Athletic Association Hall of Fame, Medford High School Hall of Fame, Dartmouth College Hall of Fame, USA Hockey Hall of Fame, Massachusetts Hockey Hall of Fame, International Ice Hockey Federation Hall of Fame, and the United States Olympic Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Predeceased by his wife, the former Maureen Hines, and his brothers Bill and Joe, John Patrick Riley, Jr. is survived by his six loving children, Jay (Debbie), Mark (Linda), Rob (Debbie), Brian (Marybeth), Mary Beth and Stacey; his brother, Jim; nine grandchildren, Sarah, Brett, Lauren, Jack, Kathryn, Danielle, Brendan, Jack, and Mickey; and his loving companion Paulina Connolly and devoted friend and caretaker Colleen Delaney; as well as several nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit, imbued with a sense of compassion, and comforted by a loving family, John Patrick Riley, Jr. leaves behind a remarkable legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all he served and befriended; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of John Patrick Riley, Jr., legendary hockey coach, distinguished citizen and devoted member of his community; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of John Patrick Riley, Jr.