2015-J4426

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of legendary New York City Public High School Coach Charles Granby

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to pay proper tribute to individuals of great character whose lives exemplify the highest ideals of humanity; and

WHEREAS, Coach Charles Granby of Queens, New York, died on Tuesday, March 1, 2016, at the age of 81; he spent more than four decades compiling records coaching high school basketball and producing countless college basketball players; and

WHEREAS, Born in North Carolina, Charles "Chuck" Granby grew up in Harlem, the Bronx and Queens with his brother and sister; and

WHEREAS, Charles Granby proudly served his country as a member of the United States Army in the Medical Corps at Fort Knox, Kentucky; after his discharge, he graduated from Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois, and earned his master's degree from Hunter College in New York City; and

WHEREAS, As a student at Bradley University, he played on the nationally ranked basketball team; he was instrumental in the team winning the National Invitational Tournament in 1960; and

WHEREAS, Charles Granby was both a teacher and coach in the New York City Public School System for 45 years at Andrew Jackson, which is now called Campus Magnet High School; he retired from teaching in 1996, but continued to coach the Boys' Varsity Basketball Team through the 2014 season; and

WHEREAS, On December 20, 2011, Charles Granby achieved a high point in his coaching career by obtaining his 700th win in the Public Schools Athletic League (PSAL); he was the first coach to reach this milestone in the history of the PSAL; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his storied coaching career, Charles Granby was

one of the winningest coaches in the history of New York City basketball with an overall record of 722-213; in 2012, this remarkable man was inducted into the New York City Basketball Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, During his tenure at Andrew Jackson/Campus Magnet High School, Coach Charles Granby and his teams had many notable accomplishments including making the PSAL playoffs for 41 years, and were Divisional Champs for 24 years, Quarter-finalists for 19 years, Queens Champs for seven years, Semi-finalists for six years, PSAL finalists for four years and made the state tournaments twice, in 1984 and 1985; they also won the PSAL NYC Championship Title in 1985; and

WHEREAS, During the 1980s, Coach Charles Granby held his dream job, coaching in the Empire State Games in Syracuse, New York; along with Coach Paul Brown, he led his teams to win eight straight gold medals at the Empire State Open Men's Basketball Tournament; and

WHEREAS, Considered the Dean of New York City Coaches, Charles Granby has recorded the second most wins of any coach in PSAL history, and was named 1984-1985 Coach of the Year by the NYSBA, NEWSDAY's Coach of the Year six times and the NEW YORK DAILY NEWS Coach of the Year five times; and

WHEREAS, For his steadfast and unremitting commitment to the sport of basketball, Charles Granby was the recipient of numerous awards and accolades including the 1993 NYSBCA Recognition Award and the 1997 Pro-Am Achievement Award; and

WHEREAS, In addition, he was inducted into the Brooklyn Basketball Hall of Fame in 1996, and the New York State Basketball Hall of Fame in 2005; he was also the subject of numerous full page articles in the NEW YORK TIMES; and

WHEREAS, For several seasons, Charles Granby coached Wheelchair Tournaments, the Big Apple Games, and worked with Elmcor and Pro-Am on several projects; he organized the Annual Thanksgiving Basketball Classic at York College which gave exposure to many local high schools

throughout New York; a true community affair, local players and families looked forward to an afternoon of highly competitive basketball the Sunday after Thanksgiving; and

WHEREAS, To his many players, Charles Granby was not just a coach, he was more like a father or big brother; by stressing the importance of higher education, he was influential in the lives of many of his players, helping them to attain full scholarships to top colleges and universities; he was extremely proud of the high college placement rate among his basketball players; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his many years of coaching, Charles Granby constantly gave his players the "ugly life" speech, informing them that without education, everything in their life would be ugly; and

WHEREAS, Devoted to his Christian faith, Charles Granby was a faithful member of the St. Albans Congregational Church for 40 years; he participated in the Men's Fellowship and the Deacon Board and enthusiastically supported the Church until the day he died; and

WHEREAS, Charles Granby is survived by his loving daughter, Robyn; and

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

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to mourn the death of legendary New York City Public High School Coach Charles Granby; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the family of Charles Granby.