

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION mourning the death of legendary Archbishop Molloy High School Coach Jack Curran

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 Jack Curran of Rye, New York, died on Thursday, March 14, 2013, at the age of 82; he spent more than a half century compiling records coaching high school basketball and baseball that might never be toppled; and

WHEREAS, Jack Curran grew up in the Bronx and graduated from St. John's University; he played minor league baseball for both the Dodgers and Phillies; and

WHEREAS, In 1958, Jack Curran was living in West Springfield, Massachusetts, working as a building supplies salesman, when one morning he read in a newspaper that St. John's University, his alma mater, had hired Lou Carnesecca as an assistant basketball coach; Lou Carnesecca had been the baseball and basketball coach at Archbishop Molloy High School in Queens and Jack Curran applied for the newly vacant job, was hired and held onto the position for 55 years; and

WHEREAS, When former players, opponents, friends and colleagues spoke of him, the wins and titles were secondary to the character of Jack Curran; he did so much for youth throughout New York City; and

WHEREAS, Coach Jack Curran's teams won five city championships in basketball and 17 in baseball; no other New York City coach has ever won a title in both sports in the same year, but Coach Curran did it four times during the 1969, 1973, 1974 and 1987 seasons; and

WHEREAS, Coach Jack Curran's record was 972-437 in basketball and 1,708-523 in baseball; many of his former players included some of New York City's biggest names in high school basketball such as 1972 Olympian Kevin Joyce, Brian Winters, Kenny Smith, Kenny Anderson and Russ Smith; and

WHEREAS, A great teacher and mentor who was humble and taught many how to behave by example, Jack Curran is the only high school coach in the New York State Hall of Fame in both basketball and baseball; he is also the only coach to be selected as National Coach of the Year in two different sports; and

WHEREAS, Jack Curran was honored as Catholic High School Athletic Association Coach of the Year 25 times in baseball, 22 times in basketball and won city championships in three decades; he was elected into nine different Halls of Fame, including the New York City Basketball Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Armed with a humanistic spirit, imbued with a sense of compassion, Coach Jack Curran leaves behind a 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 legendary Archbishop Molloy High School Coach Jack Curran; and be it further

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