

Senate Resolution No. 1965

BY: Senator MAY

HONORING Coach Felisha Legette-Jack upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition by the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) as the 2024 Women's Basketball Coach of the Year on March 5, 2024

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to commend those notable citizens of our State, who have achieved extraordinary success and achieved incredible career milestones, and who have distinguished themselves and their universities through their personal and professional achievements; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Coach Felisha Legette-Jack upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition by the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) as the 2024 Women's Basketball Coach of the Year on Tuesday, March 5, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Felisha Legette-Jack is the current head coach of the Syracuse University women's basketball team and is the first Syracuse coach, men's or women's, to earn ACC Coach of the Year honors in basketball; she also is the third Syracuse women's basketball head coach to be named Coach of the Year in their conference; and

WHEREAS, A highly-skilled athlete, Felisha Legette-Jack began her career in basketball playing for the University of Georgia's Lady Bulldogs, leading them to two state titles before going on to star at Syracuse University; playing for Syracuse, she scored 1,526 points, grabbed 927 rebounds, and graduated as the all-time leading scorer and rebounder in program history; as of 2021, she ranked fifth in scoring and third in rebounds; and

WHEREAS, As a testament to her talent and dedication, Felisha Legette-Jack was the 1985 Big East Rookie of the Year, all-league player three times, and was the recipient of a LetterWinner of Distinction Award; she was inducted into the Syracuse Hall of Fame in 1998 and Syracuse University retired her basketball jersey (No. 33) in November 2021, becoming the first women's basketball player at Syracuse to have her number retired, and one of the first three female athletes to have their uniforms retired by the Orange; and

WHEREAS, Previously serving as the head coach at the University at Buffalo, Indiana University, and Hofstra University's women's basketball teams, as well as the assistant coach of the U19 team representing the United States at the 2005 FIBA Americas U19 Championship for Women in Tunis, Tunisia, Felisha Legette-Jack brings the Syracuse University women's basketball team her energy, passion, and talent; she has truly transformed the program in her short time as head coach; and

WHEREAS, A Syracuse native, Felisha Legette-Jack inherited the

Syracuse University women's basketball team after they had just completed one of its worst seasons in over a decade with a depleted roster; in her first season as head coach, the Orange won 20 games and reached the Super 16 of the Women's NIT; and

WHEREAS, Proud to return to her alma mater, Felisha Legette-Jack has led the Syracuse University women's basketball team to a tremendous amount of success in her two years serving as head coach; she has led the Orange to unprecedented success in their regular season, tying program records for regular season wins (23), conference wins (13), and ACC road wins (6); and

WHEREAS, Her dedication to honing the skills of these dedicated athletes has paid off, as the Syracuse University women's basketball team has an impressive record of 23-6 overall and went 13-5 in the ACC, earning the No. 3 seed in the Ally ACC Women's Basketball Tournament; and

WHEREAS, Guiding the Syracuse University women's basketball team into the spotlight, Felisha Legette-Jack led the team to a third-place finish in the Nation's best league in her second season on The Hill; Syracuse is 4-1 against Associated Press Top-25 teams and currently ranks No. 20; the Orange are currently projected as the fifth seed in the NCAA Tournament and the team will be making its first appearance since 2021; and

WHEREAS, Rare indeed is the impressive dedication shown by an individual for the benefit of others which Felisha Legette-Jack has displayed throughout her life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Coach Felisha Legette-Jack upon the occasion of her designation for special recognition by the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) as the 2024 Women's Basketball Coach of the Year on March 5, 2024; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Coach Felisha Legette-Jack.