

Legislation Text

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Honoring the Neumann-Goretti High School Girls Varsity Basketball Team for winning the Philadelphia Catholic League Championship, the PIAA District 12 AA City Championship and reaching the PIAA AA State Championship game while finishing the season with an overall record of 29-1.

WHEREAS, On Monday, February 24, 2014 at the world-famous Palestra, the Neumann-Goretti Saints defeated the Archbishop Wood Lady Vikings by a score of 55-46, securing Neumann-Goretti's first Philadelphia Catholic League Championship since 1978. The Saints blitzed through the Catholic League finishing 12-0. The Neumann-Goretti Boys Varsity team would defeat Roman Catholic H.S. later that same night to sweep the Varsity Basketball championships for their school; and

WHEREAS, On Saturday, March 1, 2014 the Saints took down the Panther's of Imhotep Charter School 79-34 to win the PIAA District XII AA City Championship and earning a top seed in the State Tournament; and

WHEREAS, The Saints continued on in the State Tournament, defeating the Camp Hill Lions 74-36, the Minersville Battling Miners 60-42, St. Basil's Academy 64-29 and the Dunmore Bucks 55-30 to reach the Championship Game against the Seton-LaSalle Rebels from Pittsburgh; and

WHEREAS, The Saints put on a gritty performance in their battle with Seton-Lasalle, but foul trouble eventually did them in as they fell 58-50 to the Rebels. The Saints finished their unprecedented season a nearly perfect 29-1; and

WHEREAS, Special accolades should be given to five Neumann-Goretti players named as All-Catholic selections. First Team: Ciani Cryor; Second Team: Sianni Martin and AJ Timber; Third Team: Ella Awobajo and Tanesha Sutton; and

WHEREAS, Neumann-Goretti was led by head coach Letty Santarelli, a former star-player at Immaculata University who was a Division II NCAA First Team All-American in 1986. Coach Santarelli has also coached at St. Richard's Catholic School in South Philadelphia and now The Philadelphia Belles AAU (Amateur Athletic Union). Santarelli also helped found the "Philly Girls Got Game" basketball development program which serves young women throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, The Saints bid farewell to their Seniors Ella Awobajo, Stephanie Brown, Tanesha Sutton, Marlana Arrigale and have a wonderfully promising future with returning players Sianni Martin, Alisha Kebbe, Ciani Cryor, Kaschae Harris, Melanie Schoolfield, Erica Brown, Kamiah Smalls, AJ Timber, Jada Russell, Felicia Aiyeotan and Christina Aborowa; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That Council does hereby honor and commend the Neumann-Goretti High School Girls Varsity Basketball Team for winning the Philadelphia Catholic League Championship, the PIAA District XII AA City Championship and reaching the PIAA AA State Championship game while finishing the season with an overall record of 29-1.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That an Engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to Head-Coach Letty Santarelli and the members of the Neumann-Goretti Girls Varsity Basketball Team as evidence of the sincere sentiments of this legislative body.