

RESOLUTION 9-H.C.R. No. 8

A house concurrent resolution commemorating the life and work of John Mariucci.

WHEREAS, John Mariucci was born May 18, 1916, in Eveleth, Minnesota, the son of Italian immigrants; and

WHEREAS, John Mariucci began playing hockey in his junior year of high school and then played Golden Gopher football and Golden Gopher ice hockey as a defenseman. He was the first University of Minnesota hockey player named All-American; and

WHEREAS, in the 1940's, he played for the National Hockey League Chicago Blackhawks for five years and was an outstanding enforcer and gamebreaker; and

WHEREAS, John Mariucci, also known as "Maroosh" and "The Old Roman," was head coach for the University of Minnesota hockey program from 1952 to 1966. He was regarded as a tough coach but a gentle man with a big heart. As some of his players later became coaches, the foundation was being established for hockey's growth in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the 1956 United States Olympic Team, under his coaching, won a silver medal; and

WHEREAS, since 1967, he was assistant general manager, scout, and goodwill ambassador for the North Stars; and

WHEREAS, his love and dedication to hockey's development at every competitive level was rewarded by seeing hockey grow from a minor sport at a dozen high schools to a major sport at over 150 high schools, and seeing attendance at the state tournaments increase from 15,000 in 1952, to 100,000 in 1982. He was honored as "Mr. Hockey" by the high school coaches; and

WHEREAS, it is because of the lifetime work of John Mariucci that the modern game of hockey is what it is in the United States; and

WHEREAS, John Mariucci Day in Minnesota was proclaimed by Governor Rudy Perpich on March 2, 1985, and the University of Minnesota hockey building was renamed Mariucci Arena; and

WHEREAS, he was a charter inductee in the United States Hockey Hall of Fame, located in Eveleth, and was named to the National Hockey League Hall of Fame in Montreal, May 1, 1985, and to the Minnesota Sports Hall of Fame in 1986; and

WHEREAS, his life was lived as a tender, caring, sensitive humanitarian and as an inspiration and role model. He was blessed with a great sense of humor that endeared him to many; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the State of Minnesota, the Senate concurring, that it commemorates the life and work of John Mariucci. Hockey players, fans, and personnel are grateful and appreciative of his lifelong dedication to American hockey. He was admired, loved, and respected and will be remembered and missed not only by Minnesotans but throughout the country.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to prepare enrolled copies of this resolution, to be authenticated by his signature and those of the Speaker, the President of the Senate, and the Secretary of the Senate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be presented to the Governor for his approval and, upon his approval, deposited with the Secretary of State and published with the laws of the State of

Minnesota. The Secretary of State shall prepare certified copies of this resolution and present them to the family of John Mariucci and to the United States Hockey Hall of Fame.

Filed May 27, 1987