

House Resolution 1676

By: Representatives Panitch of the 51st, Cox of the 28th, and Silcox of the 53rd

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Commending the Yeshiva University Maccabees; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the Yeshiva University Maccabees Men's Basketball Program has been playing
3 competitive basketball for almost a century, beginning in the 1930-31 season; and
- 4 WHEREAS, the Maccabees have demonstrated extraordinary athletic excellence, discipline,
5 and sportsmanship throughout the 2025-2026 NCAA Division III season, and captured their
6 second consecutive Skyline Conference Championship, finishing a remarkable 16-0 in
7 conference play, earning an automatic bid to the NCAA Division III Tournament and
8 demonstrating unmatched dominance within their conference; and
- 9 WHEREAS, Skyline Conference Player of the Year and senior guard Zevi Samet, a proud
10 Jewish student-athlete who wears a kippah on the court, surpassed 2,500 career points during
11 this tournament run, setting a new Yeshiva University single-game scoring record of 52
12 points earlier this season, and exemplifying the sustained individual excellence of this
13 program; and
- 14 WHEREAS, the Maccabees defeated Bates College in a heart-stopping NCAA Tournament
15 first-round contest by a score of 71-69, winning on a clutch last-second free throw by senior

16 guard Max Zakheim with just 0.2 seconds remaining on the clock, a victory that
17 demonstrated the team's composure, resilience, and will to win under the most intense
18 pressure; and

19 WHEREAS, the Maccabees then advanced past the University of Maine Farmington in the
20 second round, with junior forward Yoav Oselka, a native of Givatayim, Israel, delivering 24
21 points and 11 rebounds in a dominant team performance, sending Yeshiva to the Sweet
22 Sixteen; and

23 WHEREAS, this Sweet Sixteen appearance marks only the second time in program history
24 and the first since 2020, a testament to the sustained program-building work of Head Coach
25 Elliot Steinmetz and the dedication of the entire athletic staff; and

26 WHEREAS, Yeshiva University is a proud institution of Jewish higher learning, founded in
27 1886, whose student-athletes compete with faith, integrity, and purpose, embodying the
28 university's guiding philosophy of Torah U'Madda— the integration of religious devotion and
29 secular excellence— demonstrating to the world that identity, faith, and athletic achievement
30 are not in conflict but deeply and beautifully complementary; and

31 WHEREAS, Yeshiva University counts among its proud alumni a significant and growing
32 community of graduates who call Georgia home, making the Maccabees' success a source
33 of particular pride and celebration throughout the state; and

34 WHEREAS, the Maccabees serve as an inspiration to Jewish communities across Georgia,
35 across the nation, and throughout the world, demonstrating the power of pride, purpose, and
36 perseverance at a time when such symbols of Jewish strength and joy carry special and
37 profound meaning.

38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
39 the members of this body commend the Yeshiva University Maccabees Men's Basketball
40 Team, Head Coach Elliot Steinmetz, and the entire athletic department on this historic
41 achievement, and extend its warmest congratulations and best wishes as the Maccabees
42 continue their pursuit of an NCAA Division III national championship.

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
44 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to
45 Yeshiva University President Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman, Head Coach Elliot Steinmetz, team
46 captains Zevi Samet and Max Zakheim, and the members of the Maccabees Men's Basketball
47 Team.