Expressions of Legislative Sentiment recognizing:

(1-1) the Orono High School Girls Track Team, of Orono, which won the Class C State Championship. This is the team's sixth straight state championship. We extend to all the members of the team our congratulations and best wishes;

HLS 526

(1-2) the Orono High School Boys Track Team, of Orono, which won the Class C State Championship. This is the team's third straight state championship. We extend to all the members of the team our congratulations and best wishes;

HLS 527

(1-3) the Fryeburg Academy Softball Team, of Fryeburg, which won the Class B South Championship. We extend to all the members of the team our congratulations and best wishes;

HLS 561

(1-4) Barry Tibbetts, of Scarborough, on his retirement after nearly 24 years of service to the Town of Kennebunk, with 19 years as Town Manager. Mr. Tibbetts led the town's economic development and the downtown's revitalization while protecting both the town's beaches and its bond rating, helping it to be recognized as a "best place to live in Maine." We extend to Mr. Tibbetts our congratulations and best wishes;

HLS 562

(1-5) Emily Bryn Woodilla, of Hermon, who has earned the distinction of being named Valedictorian of the 2017 graduating class of Hermon High School. We extend to Emily our congratulations and best wishes;

HLS 564

(1-6) Kate Zhimin Lusignan, of Hermon, who has earned the distinction of being named Salutatorian of the 2017 graduating class of Hermon High School. We extend to Kate our congratulations and best wishes;

HLS 565

(1-7) Francis C. Watson, of Windham, a member of Boy Scout Troop No. 805, who has attained the high rank and distinction of Eagle Scout. This is the highest award in Boy Scouting and is given for excellence in skills development, leadership, personal growth and community service. For his Eagle Scout project, Francis, along with some fellow scouts, built six outdoor cat shelters for feral cats. We extend our congratulations to Francis on this achievement;

HLS 566
(1-8) Joseph M. Jabar, of Waterville, on the occasion of his induction into the Maine Sports Legends, a statewide hall of fame recognizing individuals for their contributions to athletics in the State. We extend to Mr. Jabar our congratulations and best wishes;

HLS 567

(1-9) Kate Ginder, of Cape Elizabeth, a member of Girl Scout Troop No. 2222, who has received the Girl Scout Gold Award. This is the highest award in Senior Girl Scouting and is given for excellence in skills development, leadership, personal growth and community service. We send our congratulations to her on this accomplishment;

HLS 568

(1-10) Natalie Gale, of Cape Elizabeth, a member of Girl Scout Troop No. 2222, who has received the Girl Scout Gold Award. This is the highest award in Senior Girl Scouting and is given for excellence in skills development, leadership, personal growth and community service. We send our congratulations to her on this accomplishment;

HLS 569

(1-11) the Maine Lumberjacks Girls 12U AAU Basketball Team, of Houlton, which won the Zero Gravity National Finals. Members of the team include players Ashlyn Bouchard, Camryn Ala, Salena Savage, Drew Warman, Madison Russell, Izzy Brownlee, Anna Jandreau and Faith Sjoberg and coach Clyde Warman. We extend to all the members of the team our congratulations and best wishes;

HLS 570

(1-12) the Top Ten students of the 2017 graduating class of Lawrence High School, in Fairfield: Morgan Boudreau, Kaylee Brann, Madelyn Fortin, Jaden Gray, Samantha Knox, Joseph Lailer, James LeBlanc, Kiana Letourneau, Ryan Pellerin and Elizabeth Walsh. We send them our congratulations and best wishes;

HLS 571

(1-13) the Penobscot Valley High School Softball Team, of Howland, which won the Class D North Championship. We extend to all the members of the team our congratulations and best wishes;

HLS 573

(1-14) Lisa Caron, of Casco, Director of Special Services in School Administrative District No. 61, who has received the Special Education Administrator of the Year Award for 2017 from the Maine Administrators of Services for Children with Disabilities. We extend to Ms. Caron our congratulations and best wishes;

HLS 574

(1-15) Dennis Michaud, of Casco, who retired from the Casco Fire and Rescue Department after more than 30 years of service. We extend to Mr. Michaud our appreciation for his long service and offer him our congratulations and best wishes;

HLS 575

(1-16) Kate Hall, of Casco, a student at the University of Georgia, who won the Long Jump event at the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Outdoor College Track and Field Championships in Eugene, Oregon with a 22 foot, 1 inch jump. She is the first Maine native in more than 50 years to win a title at the Division I track and field championships. We extend to Kate our congratulations and best wishes;

HLS 576

Come from the House, READ and PASSED.
Joint Resolutions

WHEREAS, the Legislature has learned with deep regret of the death of:

(1-17) Waldo H. Covell, of Waterville. As a young man, Mr. Covell declined a contract to play for the Philadelphia Phillies professional baseball team and embarked on a football and baseball coaching career that would span six decades. Among his achievements are his winning several Little Ten football championships at Orono High School, serving as the head baseball coach at Colby College from 1974 to 1984 and winning a Class A State Championship in football at Lawrence High School in 2006 as an assistant coach. Mr. Covell was inducted into the Maine Baseball Hall of Fame in 2003. He also was a registered Maine Guide of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. Mr. Covell will be long remembered and sadly missed by his family and friends and all those whose lives he touched;

HLS 563

WHEREAS, the Legislature has learned with deep regret of the death of:

(1-18) the Honorable Floyd L. Harding, of Presque Isle, a veteran of the United States Army and a former Maine State Senator. Mr. Harding fought in the Second World War with the First Army Division. He was taken prisoner during the Battle of the Bulge and held in Dresden, Germany during the Allied bombing that destroyed the city. After his discharge from the Army, he became a lawyer, working as the Maine Potato Growers assistant general council and later at his own practice. Elected to the State Senate in 1964, he championed the causes of Aroostook County. He served as Senate Majority Leader during the 102nd Legislature and as Senate Minority Leader during the 103rd and 105th Legislatures. He was proudest of his work to fund the Aroostook Residential Center, which became part of the Central Aroostook Association, serving people with developmental disabilities. Mr. Harding was a charter member of the Presque Isle Kiwanis Club, serving as president in 1957, and a member of the Live Wire Club of the Presque Isle Chamber of Commerce, serving as president in 1961. He was a lifelong member of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars and a member of Grant Memorial United Methodist Church. He also was a member of the Presque Isle Air Base revitalization team, whose efforts led the establishment of a vocational education center that became Northern Maine Community College. In 2001, he received the Chamber of Commerce Lifetime Achievement Award. Mr. Harding will be long remembered and sadly missed by his family and friends and all those whose lives he touched;

HLS 572

Come from the House READ and ADOPTED.