

RESOLUTION

In Honor of Robert England and in Recognition of His Distinguished Service

WHEREAS, Robert Wayne England arrived at Eastern Michigan University September 1, 1968 and retired July 15, 2011 after 43 years of dedicated service to the University and the Recreation and Intramural Department, and

WHEREAS, Bob's vision for designing and building a comprehensive, state-of-the-art, first-of-its-kind student recreation facility came to fruition in 1982, setting a new industry standard for the integration of programming, facilities, and business operations, and

WHEREAS, that vision became the Olds Robb Student Recreation Complex, better known today simply as the "Rec/Im," a campus landmark and model for campus facilities throughout the United States, and

WHEREAS, Bob served as the first and only director of the Rec/Im for 29 years, and

WHEREAS, under Bob's stewardship and continued vision, the recreation complex was enhanced in 1991-92 by the addition of an aerobics studio, a second weight-lifting room, a new wrestling/combatative room, a Courtside food concessions stand, the Competitive Edge Pro Shop, and yet another campus landmark – the University Park and Lakehouse outdoor recreation facility, and

WHEREAS, in 2004, Bob opened the new intramural softball complex on the west side of campus; and in 2010 opened a new 30 person hot tub in the Club Pool, and

WHEREAS, Bob served EMU as the Interim Director of Athletics 2005-2006, during which time, the football field turf was replaced; the Sicluna Soccer Field was created, as well as the new Men's Wrestling room in the Warner Building; and enhancements were made to the Men's Baseball Locker Room, and

WHEREAS, Bob has been honored by the University community with a number of awards including the Silver and Gold Medallion Awards; Administrator of the Year; and the prestigious Dr. John W. Porter Distinguished Service Award; and has been honored among his peers in the recreation and sports industry with numerous state and regional service recognition awards; and in the local community was inducted into the Ypsilanti High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2006, and

WHEREAS, Bob is the namesake of the Michigan Intramural and Recreation Sports Association's "Robert W. England Outstanding Student Award;" and the Rec/Im's peer-nominated "Englander Award" which is presented to a student employee who exemplifies the professional and personal strengths of Bob; and "The Robert England and Lou Gianino Rec/Im Student Employee Endowed Scholarship," and

WHEREAS, Bob has become an icon of EMU who is much-loved and respected by students, faculty, staff, alumni, fellow colleagues, and those in the surrounding communities and has mentored and touched the lives of hundreds of students who have since gone on to serve in the field of recreation and intramural sports at institutions across the country,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Eastern Michigan University Board of Regents congratulates Bob England on his retirement, thanks him for his outstanding service and success over the past 43 years and wishes him the very best in the years to come.

September 20, 2011