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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE TRAGIC AND UNTIMELY PASSING
OF JOCELYN AZEVEDO DOCOUTO

Introduced By: Representatives Alzate, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Cruz,
Henries, Hull, Giraldo, Voas, and Felix

Date Introduced: February 06, 2024

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, It is with deepest sadness that this House of Representatives has learned of
2 the passing of Jocelyn DoCouto, the owner of JaeSlayed/Beatbymaggz Studio in Pawtucket, who
3 was tragically and suddenly murdered as she left the business she had worked so hard to grow,
4 leaving two young children without their mom; and

5 WHEREAS, Jocelyn was a prominent role model throughout her community. Her
6 parents, Adeline Azevedo and Tito DoCouto, and much of her family, had hailed from Senegal
7 and Cape Verde. At the age of 11, she had first taught herself how to braid in front of a mirror,
8 and later at the age of 13, she began working in a local barber shop; and

9 WHEREAS, Determined to open her own business, Jocelyn started her salon with a
10 cosmetologist as the manager in order to obtain a license, and over the next few years, she
11 championed deregulation of the hair braiding industry; and

12 WHEREAS, Making hair braiding, a generational and practical African-style art-form,
13 into her dream come true, had brought Jocelyn to the State House on many occasions to testify
14 before the legislature, and when the bill subsequently reached the Governor's desk for signing,
15 she was there to celebrate; and

16 WHEREAS, With talent and determination, Jocelyn became not only a successful
17 business owner and hair stylist but expanded as a Digital Creator and Influencer, becoming a
18 walking inspiration and role model to many in the community; and

19 WHEREAS, Most recently, Jocelyn had launched JaeSlayed Haircare Products which

1 catered to women, men and children with natural hair; and

2 WHEREAS, In addition to her children and parents, Jocelyn was the sister of Tito
3 DoCouto, Jr., Jamian DoCouto, Candle DoCouto, D'Andre DoCouto, Genneva DaSilva, and
4 Jaleen Azevedo; and

5 WHEREAS, Jocelyn DoCouto was a devoted and proud mother to Shailynn Ross and
6 Preston DoCouto and a beloved daughter, who was working to achieve financial independence
7 for her family and she will be dearly missed; now, therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
9 extends deepest condolences to the family and friends of Jocelyn DoCouto; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
11 transmit duly certified copy of this resolution to Shailynn Ross and Preston DoCouto.

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