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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

SENATE RESOLUTION

**EXPRESSING SORROW ON THE PASSING OF DAVE GAVITT AND HONORING HIM
FOR HIS MANY SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FABRIC OF LIFE IN
RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Senators Jabour, Goodwin, Paiva Weed, McCaffrey, and Ruggerio

Date Introduced: January 05, 2012

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Dave Gavitt was born in 1937 in Westerly, Rhode Island. He graduated
2 from Dartmouth College in 1959, where he was a member of the 1959-1960 varsity basketball
3 team, the last Dartmouth basketball team to win the Ivy League Championship. He spent two
4 years as an Assistant Coach at Worcester Academy before becoming an Assistant Coach at
5 Providence College under legendary coach, Joe Mullaney. He left in 1966 to become the head
6 coach at his alma mater before taking over for Mullaney at Providence College; and

7 WHEREAS, In Gavitt's 10 years at Providence College, he compiled a phenomenal 209-
8 84 record, including 8 twenty-win seasons, 5 NCAA Tournament appearances, including one
9 Final 4, and three NIT appearances. His legendary 1972-73 team, led by Ernie DiGregorio,
10 Marvin Barnes, and Kevin Stacom, compiled an astounding 27-4 record and might have won the
11 national title had Marvin Barnes not injured his knee at that year's Final 4; and

12 WHEREAS, Dave, in addition to being a gentleman and a man of integrity, was also
13 known as a "big game" coach. Powerhouse programs feared playing Providence College at the
14 Civic Center with Gavitt at the helm, knowing that a tough game was a certainty. In 1976,
15 Providence College played #1 Michigan in one of the greatest games ever played in college
16 basketball history. PC was trailing all game but refused to buckle and won a thrilling overtime
17 victory as Bruce Campbell scored 25 points and Bob Misevicius hit two clutch shots, one to force
18 overtime, and the other at the buzzer in overtime to give PC the win. Two years later, legendary
19 coach Dean Smith took his North Carolina Tar Heels into Providence in the midst of the famous

1 Blizzard of '78 to play PC on national television. Once again, Gavitt and PC pulled off the big
2 upset, defeating North Carolina in a 61-59 thriller; and

3 WHEREAS, Dave Gavitt was chosen to be the head coach of the 1980 United States
4 Men's Olympic Basketball team, but sadly the United States chose to boycott the 1980 Summer
5 Olympics in Moscow; and

6 WHEREAS, Dave Gavitt was instrumental in forming the Big East Basketball
7 Conference in 1979. This new conference changed the landscape of college basketball in the East,
8 and by including Providence College as an original member, guaranteed that PC would remain
9 relevant within the college basketball world. In 1985, the Big East incredibly sent three of its
10 members to the Final 4, with Villanova winning the national title over fellow Big East member
11 Georgetown. For his many contributions to the game of basketball, Dave Gavitt was inducted into
12 the National Basketball Hall of Fame; and

13 WHEREAS, Dave Gavitt was the loving husband of his wife, Julie, and the loving father
14 to three sons. His passion for basketball, the State of Rhode Island, Providence College, and the
15 various charities he devoted much of his life to, will be sorely missed. A good man and a great
16 Rhode Islander has passed, and we thank him for his many significant contributions to the quality
17 of life in Rhode Island. Dave Gavitt paved the way to PC's basketball success through his
18 passion, coaching instincts, and vision. It is fitting that in honor of his legacy in Rhode Island,
19 Service Road, which leads right to the Dunkin Donut Center, home of the Providence College
20 Friars, has been re-dedicated and named Dave Gavitt Way; now, therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
22 hereby expresses its deepest condolences on the passing of former Providence College basketball
23 coach Dave Gavitt; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
25 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mrs. Julie Gavitt.

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