

2020 -- H 7321

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF KOBE BRYANT

Introduced By: Representatives Mattiello, Shekarchi, Ruggiero, Marszalkowski, and Noret

Date Introduced: January 28, 2020

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, Kobe Bryant, one of the greatest professional basketball players of all time,  
2 a talented artist, community leader, entrepreneur, and loving family man tragically passed away  
3 in a helicopter crash in California on Sunday, January 27, 2020. Nine people perished in the  
4 crash, including Mr. Bryant's daughter, Gianna; and

5           WHEREAS, Kobe Bryant was born on August 23, 1978, the son of former NBA player  
6 Joe Bryant. He was a phenom basketball player at Lower Merion High School in Pennsylvania,  
7 and was widely regarded as being the best high school basketball player in the country. He  
8 bypassed college and declared for the NBA Draft, where he was selected by the Charlotte Hornets  
9 and was subsequently traded to the Los Angeles Lakers, where he would embark on a storied  
10 twenty-year career in the NBA; and

11           WHEREAS, Kobe Bryant entered the NBA at the tender age of eighteen and quickly  
12 made an impact on the game. He was named an NBA All-Star in his second season, won the 1997  
13 Slam Dunk Contest, and exhibited the kind of world-class athleticism exhibited by a rarified few  
14 in NBA history. What made him even more intimidating was the fact that he combined great  
15 basketball skills with his incredible athleticism. He was an outstanding shooter and free throw  
16 shooter, a superb defender and an excellent passer; and

17           WHEREAS, Kobe Bryant played his entire twenty-year career with the Los Angeles  
18 Lakers. He scored the fourth most points in NBA history, the most points in Lakers history and  
19 led the Lakers to five NBA Championship Titles. Kobe was the NBA MVP in 2008, the NBA  
20 Finals MVP in 2009 and 2010, played in 18 All-star games, was the MVP of four All-Star games,

1 was an eleven-time 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-NBA selection, a nine time NBA Defensive First team selection,  
2 and was a two-time Olympic Gold Medalist in 2008 and 2012; and

3 WHEREAS, Kobe Bryant was simply unstoppable at times on the court, and no-one  
4 defender could contain him. His 81 point game in 2006 is the second highest in NBA history  
5 behind only Wilt Chamberlain’s 100 point game in 1962. He was the first player in NBA history  
6 to score 30,000 or more career points and compile 6,000 or more career assists, and he is one of  
7 only four players in NBA history to compile 25,000 or more career points, 6,000 or more career  
8 rebounds, and 6,000 or more career assists; and

9 WHEREAS, Kobe Bryant’s life outside of basketball had the potential to be as impactful  
10 as was his professional playing career. He was a talented entrepreneur who owned Kobe Inc., and  
11 was a partner in a venture capital firm. He was a talented artist who won an Academy Award  
12 Oscar for the Animated Short Film “Dear Basketball” in 2018, and also authored the book “The  
13 Mamba Mentality: How I Play” in 2018. Kobe was also a dedicated philanthropist who supported  
14 numerous charitable endeavors including After-School All Stars (ASAS), a charity dedicated to  
15 providing after-school programs to children in thirteen cities, and the Call of Duty Endowment,  
16 an organization that helps veterans transition to civilian life and careers after their military service  
17 has ended; and

18 WHEREAS, Kobe Bryant was the beloved husband of Vanessa, and the devoted father of  
19 Natalia, Bianca, Capri, and the late Gianna Bryant. He was a shining star who burned bright both  
20 on and off the basketball court. He will be remembered for his athletic wizardry and incredible  
21 career achievements, and the positive impression he made on seemingly all Americans, from  
22 neighborhood kids playing basketball in their playgrounds to the most famous people on the  
23 globe, including President Barack Obama who said that “Kobe was a legend on the court and just  
24 getting started in what would have been just as meaningful second act”; now, therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and  
26 Providence Plantations hereby expresses its deepest condolences to the Bryant Family on the  
27 passing of Kobe Bryant; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
29 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Vanessa Bryant and Family.

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