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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXTENDING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF JACQUELINE COURT

Introduced By: Representatives Williams, Diaz, Cassar, Alzate, and Almeida

Date Introduced: June 17, 2020

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, It is with utmost sadness that this House has learned of the passing of
2 Jacqueline Court, a trailblazer in the fight for women's equality in sports, and the cherished wife
3 of the late Kenneth Court for fifty years, devoted mother of Kenneth Court and John Court,
4 mother-in-law of Julie Court, and the loving grandmother of Jessica Court; and

5 WHEREAS, "Jackie" as she was known by her family and many friends, was born and
6 raised in the Bronx, New York, the daughter of the late John and Cora Stewart. She graduated
7 from Hampton University, where she excelled in science, dance and physical education; and

8 WHEREAS, During her college years, Mrs. Court had met and later married her husband
9 Kenneth and the couple moved to Rhode Island. She started teaching in 1969, breaking barriers as
10 she became the first minority coach to be hired by Brown University, where she inspired so many
11 young people as the head gymnastics coach for more than thirty years; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1997, and again in 1999, Mrs. Court was named ECAC Coach of the
13 Year, and the NCAA Northeast Region Coach of the Year, also in 1999. For eighteen years, she
14 served as the State's 1st Chairperson of USA Gymnastics, was District Chairperson for the
15 National High School Federation, and served on the advisory boards for both the Women's Sports
16 Foundation and the New England Women's Fund; and

17 WHEREAS, Beloved by her students and respected by her peers, Mrs. Court was a
18 nationally ranked gymnastics official for more than forty years, and earned a Special Service
19 Award from the National Association of Collegiate Gymnastics Coaches in 1994 and 1996, and
20 was inducted into the Northeast Women's Hall of Fame; and

1 WHEREAS, The most fitting tribute to Jackie Court is a celebration of her life, as a
2 devoted wife, mother and grandmother, and a dynamic pioneer for women's equality in sports.
3 She will be dearly missed; now, therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
5 extends deepest condolences on the passing of Jacqueline Court; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
7 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Kenneth Court and John Court.

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