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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

S E N A T E R E S O L U T I O N

**EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF KATHLEEN "KATHY"
FLORES**

Introduced By: Senator Tiara T. Mack

Date Introduced: January 11, 2022

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, It is with immense sadness that this Senate has learned of the passing of
2 Kathy Flores, a trailblazing and legendary American rugby player and coach, a pioneer in the
3 sport of American women's rugby, and a fierce advocate for women's equality in rugby and all
4 sports; and

5 WHEREAS, Kathy Flores was born in Philadelphia, and called Tallahassee, Florida, her
6 hometown. She attended Monmouth Regional High School in New Jersey where she was a
7 standout athlete who excelled at field hockey, basketball and track & field. She also attended East
8 Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania (ESU) where she played basketball at the guard position,
9 threw the javelin for the track team, and earned a B.S. degree in physical education. In 1997, she
10 was inducted into the ESU Hall of Fame for her athletic excellence as an undergraduate student;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, While attending Florida State University to begin a Master's program in
13 exercise physiology, Ms. Flores discovered and fell in love with the sport of rugby. Thanks to her
14 prior experience playing basketball and as a track athlete, Ms. Flores had the strength, speed and
15 coordination to excel at rugby. Ms. Flores proceeded to serve as the team captain and play at the
16 number eight and scrum-half positions for Florida State where she helped lead the Seminoles to
17 four national championships; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1985, Ms. Flores was a member of a grassroots organized, invitational
19 national team that was the first United States Women's Rugby Team to play international

1 matches. Shortly thereafter, she became a member of the first official USA Women’s Rugby
2 Team, a team she was part of until 1994; and

3 WHEREAS, In 1994, Ms. Flores began her legendary coaching career with the Berkeley
4 All Blues Rugby Team from the San Francisco Bay area. From 1994 to 2010, she compiled a
5 record of success rarely matched in the history of sports. Under her direction and guidance, the
6 All Blues would go on to win eleven national championships. During this period, she also
7 coached the USA Women’s Rugby Team, from 2003 to 2010, and was the coach of the 2006 and
8 2010 United States Women’s World Cup Teams. She was the first woman to coach any rugby
9 national team and the first woman of color to coach a national team. Ms. Flores also played a key
10 role in the formation of the Women’s Premiere league in 2009; and

11 WHEREAS, In 2014, Ms. Flores became the Head Coach of the Brown University
12 Women’s Rugby Team, one of the first such Division I NCAA teams. Once again she excelled,
13 leading her 2014-2015 team to an undefeated season and the Ivy League Championship. In the
14 last two full seasons, Ms. Flores had led her squads to the National Intercollegiate Rugby
15 Association (NIRA) 15’s Championship Match in 2019, and the NIRA Quarterfinals in 2018.
16 She also coached the Providence Women’s Rugby team where for five consecutive years, it
17 placed in the national top 16 for its conference; and

18 WHEREAS, Kathy Flores received many awards and honors throughout her
19 distinguished career as both a rugby player and coach. She was inducted into the East
20 Stroudsburg University Hall of Fame and was twice inducted into the US Rugby Hall of Fame,
21 first as an individual, and later as a member of the United States 1991 World Cup Team. She was
22 named a “Woman of Achievement” by the YWCA in 2016, Coach of the Year by the Women’s
23 Sports Foundation in 2000, and Coach of the Year by USA Rugby in 2014; and

24 WHEREAS, While Coach Flores will be long-remembered for her incredible success in
25 rugby as a player and coach, she will live on forever in the hearts of the countless people within
26 the rugby community for her friendship, guidance and mentoring and they will forever remember
27 and be thankful for her legacy of fighting for women’s equality in the sport of rugby, in all
28 athletics, and throughout society; now, therefore be it

29 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby expresses its deepest
30 condolences on the passing of Kathy Flores; and be it further

31 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
32 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Brown University President Christina Paxson.

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