
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 724 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY KINSEY, BRIGGS, DALEY, KIRKLAND AND McCARTER,
FEBRUARY 4, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT,
FEBRUARY 4, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring and expressing condolences for the life and
2 accomplishments of Kobe Bryant.

3 WHEREAS, Kobe Bean Bryant, one of the most prominent names in
4 professional basketball, died on January 26, 2020, alongside his
5 13-year-old daughter Gianna Bryant, following a helicopter
6 accident in Calabasas, California; and

7 WHEREAS, Kobe was born on August 23, 1978, in Philadelphia,
8 the son of former NBA player Joe Bryant and Pamela Cox Bryant;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, The youngest of three children, Kobe began playing
11 basketball at three years of age; and

12 WHEREAS, At six years of age, Kobe's father moved his family
13 to Rieti, Italy, where Kobe became more accustomed to basketball
14 and learned to speak fluent Italian; and

15 WHEREAS, Upon moving back to the United States, Kobe played
16 basketball for four years at Lower Merion High School in
17 Ardmore, Pennsylvania, breaking countless records, winning the

1 school's first State title and being named Pennsylvania Player
2 of the Year; and

3 WHEREAS, Following his senior year of high school, Kobe
4 declared for the 50th NBA Draft in 1996; and

5 WHEREAS, With the 13th pick in the 1996 NBA Draft, the
6 Charlotte Hornets selected Kobe, but promptly traded him to the
7 Los Angeles Lakers; and

8 WHEREAS, Over the course of his career, Kobe played a total
9 of 20 seasons for the Los Angeles Lakers and held the record for
10 most seasons played for a single NBA franchise; and

11 WHEREAS, Kobe Bryant achieved multiple accomplishments such
12 as becoming a five-time NBA Champion, a two-time NBA Finals MVP,
13 a two-time scoring champion, an 18-time NBA All-Star, a two-time
14 Best NBA Player ESPY Award winner and a two-time Olympic gold
15 medalist during his 20-year career; and

16 WHEREAS, In April 2016, Kobe retired from the NBA and was
17 honored by the Los Angeles Lakers by retiring his No. 8 and No.
18 24 jerseys in the Staples Center in December 2017; and

19 WHEREAS, After retirement, Kobe continued to incorporate his
20 "Mamba Mentality," an adequate summation of his intensity and
21 focus, into other pursuits; and

22 WHEREAS, Kobe became an Academy Award winner when his film,
23 "Dear Basketball," won the Oscar for Best Animated Short Film at
24 the 2018 Academy Awards; and

25 WHEREAS, Kobe was a published author whose book, "Mamba
26 Mentality: How I Play," has become one of the best selling books
27 in sports literature; and

28 WHEREAS, As a dedicated philanthropist, Kobe was deeply
29 involved with various organizations, charities and causes around
30 the world; and

1 WHEREAS, Kobe was the official ambassador for After-School
2 All-Stars, a national children's charity that serves more than
3 90,000 children by providing comprehensive after-school programs
4 to keep children safe and achieve success in life and in school;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Alongside his wife, Vanessa Bryant, the couple
7 founded the Kobe & Vanessa Bryant Family Foundation, an
8 organization which provides financial resources and various
9 programs that help strengthen communities; and

10 WHEREAS, Kobe established the Kobe Bryant China Fund which
11 helped raise money for sports and cultural programs in China,
12 and provided opportunities for American youths to learn the
13 Mandarin language and the culture and traditions of the Chinese
14 people; and

15 WHEREAS, Throughout his life, Kobe made countless donations
16 and volunteered time to important causes, some of the most
17 notable include his donation to the Smithsonian's National
18 Museum for African American History and Culture, his countless
19 hours volunteering for the Make-A-Wish Foundation and his many
20 donations and volunteerism toward multiple youth basketball
21 teams; and

22 WHEREAS, Kobe often considered his family his greatest
23 achievement and worked diligently to be the best husband and
24 father possible to his wife and his four daughters; and

25 WHEREAS, Kobe served as a coach to his daughter Gianna and
26 her basketball team following his retirement; and

27 WHEREAS, His passing is a solemn moment for the sports
28 industry and the world as a whole; therefore be it

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
30 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania honor and express condolences for

1 the life and accomplishments of Kobe Bryant; and be it further
2 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
3 the family of Kobe and Gianna Bryant as an expression of
4 condolence for their loss.