
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 285 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY LEACH, DINNIMAN, IOVINO, A. WILLIAMS, BROWNE,
BOSCOLA, SCARNATI, CORMAN, FONTANA, LANGERHOLC, HUGHES,
J. WARD AND MENSCH, JANUARY 28, 2020

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, JANUARY 28, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life of Kobe Bryant and expressing heartfelt
2 condolences to his family and friends in Lower Merion and
3 around the world.

4 WHEREAS, Kobe Bryant, a PIAA, NBA and Olympic champion,
5 passed away on January 26, 2020, at 41 years of age; and

6 WHEREAS, A global icon recognizable and popularly referred to
7 by only his first name, Kobe's fierce competitiveness, singular
8 focus and unmatched work ethic on the basketball court inspired
9 millions of people around the world; and

10 WHEREAS, Kobe's spectacular talent and commitment to winning
11 were evident even when he was a freshman basketball player at
12 Lower Merion High School in 1992; and

13 WHEREAS, The Lower Merion Aces compiled an 81-33 record
14 during Kobe's four years as a member of the squad, during which
15 time he scored 2,883 points; and

16 WHEREAS, Kobe was named the Pennsylvania High School Player
17 of the Year for the 1994-1995 season, during which he averaged
18 31.1 points, 10.4 rebounds and 5.2 assists per game; and

1 WHEREAS, During his senior season, Kobe led the Aces to a 31-
2 3 record and a PIAA State Championship, averaging 30.8 points,
3 12 rebounds, 6.5 assists, 4 steals and 3.8 blocked shots per
4 game; and

5 WHEREAS, Kobe was named the Naismith High School Player of
6 the Year, the Gatorade Men's National Basketball Player of the
7 Year, a USA Today All-USA First Team player and a McDonald's
8 All-American; and

9 WHEREAS, Kobe declared for the 1996 NBA Draft as a high
10 school senior and was drafted by the Charlotte Hornets with the
11 13th overall pick before being traded to the Los Angeles Lakers;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Kobe played all 20 seasons of his NBA career with
14 the Lakers, averaging 25.0 points, 5.2 rebounds, 4.7 assists and
15 1.4 steals per game; and

16 WHEREAS, During the regular season and playoffs, Kobe played
17 a total of 57,278 minutes and scored 39,283 points, both the
18 fourth highest in NBA history, and he won the NBA's Most
19 Valuable Player award in 2008; and

20 WHEREAS, During Kobe's tenure with the team, the Lakers won
21 five NBA Championships, including three in a row from 2000 to
22 2002, one of the rarest achievements in professional sports and
23 won back-to-back NBA Finals Most Valuable Player awards in 2009
24 and 2010; and

25 WHEREAS, The Lakers retired Kobe's number 8 and number 24
26 jerseys, making Kobe the only player to have two jerseys retired
27 by the same NBA team; and

28 WHEREAS, Kobe's 81-point game in 2006 ranks as the second
29 highest single-game point total in NBA history; and

30 WHEREAS, Kobe was an 18-time All-Star and won the All-Star

1 Game's Most Valuable Player award four times, which is tied for
2 the most in NBA history, and he won All-NBA honors 15 times,
3 which is tied for the most in NBA history; and

4 WHEREAS, Kobe is expected to be inducted into the Naismith
5 Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2020; and

6 WHEREAS, Kobe was a member of 2008 and 2012 U.S. men's
7 Olympic basketball teams, both of which won gold medals; and

8 WHEREAS, During his career and after his retirement, Kobe was
9 an active member of the Lower Merion community; and

10 WHEREAS, Kobe's number 33 Aces jersey was retired by the team
11 in 2002, and the school's basketball facility was renamed
12 "Bryant Gymnasium" after he made a sizeable donation; and

13 WHEREAS, Kobe's legacy continued to grow in retirement as he
14 mentored young players, raised his children in the public eye
15 and contributed to business and the arts, winning an Oscar in
16 2018 at the 90th Academy Awards for "Dear Basketball," a short
17 film based on a poem of the same name he wrote following his
18 retirement from professional basketball; and

19 WHEREAS, Kobe's contributions to the game of basketball and
20 to sports in general are vast and immeasurable; and

21 WHEREAS, On basketball courts all around the world, it is not
22 unusual for players to shout "Kobe" as they launch a jump shot;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Kobe Bean Bryant, born in Philadelphia in 1978,
25 passed away on January 26, 2020, in a helicopter crash in
26 California at the age of 41; and

27 WHEREAS, Gianna Bryant, 13, the second oldest of his four
28 children with his wife, Vanessa, also perished in the crash,
29 along with seven others; therefore be it

30 RESOLVED, That the Senate honor the life of Kobe Bryant and

1 express heartfelt condolences to his family and friends in Lower
2 Merion and around the world; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
4 Lower Merion High School, 315 E. Montgomery Ave, Ardmore, PA
5 19003.