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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

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SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF DANIEL D. SYLVESTER

Introduced By: Senators Satchell, Algieri, Gallo, Ruggerio, and Lombardi

Date Introduced: January 28, 2020

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1           WHEREAS, Daniel D. "Coach" Sylvester passed away on January 8, 2020. He was the  
2 devoted husband of Dillia Sylvester for fifty-seven years, and the son of the late John and  
3 Lucinda Sylvester; and

4           WHEREAS, Mr. Sylvester was an incredibly talented coach, leader and organizer who  
5 had a passion for athletics throughout his entire life. He first garnered the nickname "Coach"  
6 when, as a Senior at LaSalle Academy, he coached the Bristol Vikings basketball team to a  
7 championship; and

8           WHEREAS, Mr. Sylvester served our nation with honor, integrity and distinction as a  
9 member of the United States Air Force from 1951 to 1955. After receiving his honorable  
10 discharge from the military, he attended Sacramento State College, graduating in 1959. His first  
11 teaching positions were in the State of Wyoming where he taught at Dubios and St. Mary's High  
12 Schools from 1959 to 1962, also serving as the Boys' Basketball Coach; and

13           WHEREAS, Mr. Sylvester returned to Rhode Island with his wife Dillia in 1962, and  
14 obtained an M.Ed. from Rhode Island College in 1971. He taught Physical Education in West  
15 Warwick, and served as the West Warwick Director of Athletics. As the Director of Athletics, he  
16 expanded the athletics programs significantly. Mr. Sylvester fought tirelessly to sustain athletic  
17 programs in the midst of budget cuts, and played a vital role in the creation of the athletic  
18 complex in West Warwick. He also established the West Warwick Wizards Awards Association,  
19 and was honored as the Rhode Island and Eastern Regional Athletic Director of the Year and  
20 received the Bert Summer Memorial "Service to Sports" award for 1976-77; and

1           WHEREAS, Mr. Sylvester will be long remembered for his excellence as a basketball  
2 coach. He compiled an outstanding record of 652 wins and 391 losses as the basketball coach at  
3 West Warwick High School, and Westerly High School. His teams won six State Championships  
4 and nine League Championships. He was named Coach of the Year six times and was selected to  
5 coach the All-Star games in three seasons. He also founded and directed Summer basketball  
6 camps in West Warwick and Westerly; and

7           WHEREAS, Mr. Sylvester was a member of numerous athletic-relations associations and  
8 organizations including the Rhode Island Interscholastic Administrators Association and the  
9 Basketball Coaches Association, where he was a member of the Executive Board and held  
10 various offices throughout his tenure. He also served as the Athletic Directors Liaison to the  
11 Principals Committee on Athletics, was a member of the Warwick Umpires Association and the  
12 Rhode Island Baseball Umpires Association, served as the Commissioner of the Southeast New  
13 England Collegiate Umpires Association, and the Ocean State League Umpires, and as an  
14 Assistant Coach for the Rhode Island Braves AAU Team, and was General Manager of the  
15 Riverpoint Royals; and

16           WHEREAS, Mr. Sylvester received numerous awards and honors during his prestigious  
17 public service career including being inducted into the West Warwick High School Hall of Fame,  
18 the Rhode Island Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association and the New England  
19 Basketball Halls of Fame. Mr. Sylvester was also honored with the Rhode Island Principals  
20 Committee Recognition Award, the Dedicated Service Award, the Pard Pearce Award, and the  
21 Sportsmanship Award. He also received the Rhode Island Interscholastic League Legends Award,  
22 and had the honor of having the West Warwick High School Gymnasium named in his honor; and

23           WHEREAS, After retiring, Mr. Sylvester became the President of the West Warwick  
24 Assistance Agency, Society of St. Vincent DePaul & Social Committee at Saints John & James  
25 Parish. He was a Eucharistic Minister, lector, altar server, and worked at the Rhode Island  
26 College Recreation Center until just a few months ago; and

27           WHEREAS, In addition to his wife, Dillia, Mr. Sylvester leaves behind his children,  
28 Daniel, Helen Irene and her partner, Bill, Ann Marie and her fiancé, Mark, Mary Elizabeth and  
29 her husband, Kevin, and his grandchildren, Liz, Matthew, and Dr. Steven Lafond, Zachary and  
30 Courtney Calci, and Victoria Sylvester. He was also a great-grandfather to Adelyne, Isabella and  
31 Abigail, and uncle to 14 nieces and nephews. He also leaves behind his two sisters, Anna and  
32 Margaret; and

33           WHEREAS, Mr. Sylvester was a devoted family man who always put his family first in  
34 his life and loved travelling to spend time with them. He also enjoyed the theater and music, and

1 was a devoted Yankees fan. He was very loyal and generous and was the best husband, father,  
2 son, brother, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend anyone could have in their lives; now,  
3 therefore be it

4           RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
5 hereby expresses its condolences to the Sylvester family on the passing of Daniel D. Sylvester;  
6 and be it further

7           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
8 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Dillia Sylvester and Family.

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