

2022 -- H 7108

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF LEGENDARY MOUNT  
SAINT CHARLES ACADEMY ICE HOCKEY HEAD COACH, NORMAND BERNARD  
BELISLE

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Phillips, Casey, Filippi,  
Hawkins, Costantino, Fogarty, Shallcross Smith, and Ajello

Date Introduced: January 18, 2022

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, It is with great sadness that this House has learned of the passing of Norman  
2 "Bill" Belisle, the beloved husband of the late Yvette Belisle for sixty-six years, and the father of  
3 four sons, William, John, David, who joined him on the bench as Co-Coach in the later years, and  
4 Peter Belisle; and

5           WHEREAS, Mr. Belisle was born in Providence, a son of the late Odias and Albertine  
6 Belisle. He lived in Manville all of his life and was a 1948 graduate of Mount Saint Charles  
7 Academy, where he was a Rhode Island Honor Society student, and played ice hockey, helping to  
8 lead the Mounties to a state title in 1947. He was also a Korean War veteran who served our  
9 nation with honor and distinction in the United States Army; and

10           WHEREAS, After returning home from the Korean War, Mr. Belisle worked for many  
11 years as the head truck mechanic at Mack Construction. He also served his community as a  
12 volunteer firefighter for more than twenty years and established the Manville Farm League for  
13 youth baseball in 1968; and

14           WHEREAS, Mr. Belisle later took a position with Mount Saint Charles Academy as the  
15 Rink Manager of Brother Adelard Arena and only one year later, he assumed the position as Head  
16 Coach of the Mounties Ice Hockey Team, a position he would hold until his retirement in 2019.  
17 In that span of time, Coach Belisle would re-write the record books and set a standard of  
18 excellence few coaches in the history of athletic competition can match; and

19           WHEREAS, The list of Coach Belisle's accomplishments are endless and extraordinary.

1 Under his leadership and guidance, the Mounties won 32 State Titles, including 26 in a row from  
2 1978 to 2003. Coach Belisle won more than 1000 games during his 44 seasons as Head Coach,  
3 including an incredible 94 game winning streak from 1977 to 1982; and

4 WHEREAS, Coach Belisle succeeded because he demanded excellence at all times from  
5 both himself and his players. He coached his players like a drill instructor and thanks to him, his  
6 players found strengths within themselves they didn't know they had. He wasn't just coaching his  
7 players in preparation for the next game or the upcoming season, he was coaching and preparing  
8 them for success in life; and

9 WHEREAS, Coach Belisle produced more than twenty players who would go on to play  
10 in the National Hockey League, including Brian Lawton, who in 1983 became the first American  
11 selected first in the National Hockey League Entry draft, and Bryan Berard, who was selected  
12 first in the 1995 National Hockey League Entry Draft; and

13 WHEREAS, Coach Belisle received many awards, honors and accolades in honor and  
14 recognition of his storied coaching career including inductions into the U.S. Hockey Hall of  
15 Fame, Mount Saint Charles Academy Athletic Hall of Fame and the National Federation of State  
16 High School Associations Hall of Fame; and

17 WHEREAS, Words of praise in honor of Bill Belisle have been made from many people,  
18 but perhaps Mount Saint Charles Academy President Alan Tenreiro said it best, "I remember Bill  
19 from my time as a student, then as a teacher and coach, and again when I returned to Mount as  
20 President. He was always there as a guide and was an exceptional mentor to students and staff  
21 and to family and friends"; and

22 WHEREAS, In addition to his sons William, John, Dave and Peter, Mr. Belisle leaves  
23 behind his grandchildren, Victoria, Rebecca, Casey, Brendan, Brian, James, John, Madeleine,  
24 Norah and Halle, and several nieces and nephews. He was the grandfather of the late Daniel  
25 Belisle, father-in-law of the late Nancy Belisle, and brother of the late Fernande Magson; now,  
26 therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
28 expresses its deepest condolences to the Belisle Family on the passing of Norman Bernard  
29 Belisle; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
31 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to William Belisle, John Belisle, Dave Belisle and  
32 Peter Belisle.

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