

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2009**

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION DRSJR55114-LG-34A\* (1/28)**

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Sponsors:     Senator Josh Stein.

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Referred to:

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1    A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF SANDRA KAY  
2    YOW, BELOVED WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COACH AT NORTH CAROLINA  
3    STATE UNIVERSITY.

4           Whereas, Sandra Kay Yow was born on March 14, 1942, in Gibsonville, North  
5    Carolina, to Hilton Lee Yow and Elizabeth Cora Scoggins Yow; and

6           Whereas, Kay Yow earned a bachelor's degree in English, with a minor in Library  
7    Science, from East Carolina University in 1964 and a master's degree from the University of  
8    North Carolina at Greensboro in 1971; and

9           Whereas, Kay Yow began her career at Allen Jay High School in High Point, where  
10   she taught English and coached the girls' basketball team; and

11          Whereas, Kay Yow gained valuable experience as a high school basketball coach  
12   during her four years at Allen Jay High School and one year at Gibsonville High School,  
13   compiling a winning record of 92-27; and

14          Whereas, Kay Yow became the State's first female head coach of a women's  
15   basketball team on the collegiate level when she joined the athletic department at Elon College  
16   in 1971; and

17          Whereas, while at Elon College, Kay Yow compiled a record of 57-19 and led the  
18   team to State championships in 1972 and 1974; and

19          Whereas, Kay Yow was hired by North Carolina State University (NCSU) in 1975  
20   to serve as the coach of the women's basketball, volleyball, and softball teams and as the  
21   coordinator of women's sports; and

22          Whereas, during her 34 years at NCSU, Kay Yow developed an outstanding  
23   basketball program that brought great distinction to the University, the State of North Carolina,  
24   and women's athletics; and

25          Whereas, Kay Yow led her teams to five Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) regular  
26   season championships and four ACC tournament titles; and

27          Whereas, Kay Yow took her teams to the National Collegiate Athletic Association  
28   (NCAA) tournament 20 times, making 11 trips to the Sweet 16 and advancing to the 1998 Final  
29   Four; and

30          Whereas, Kay Yow had the distinction of becoming the first women's basketball  
31   coach in the ACC to reach 650 career wins and one of six coaches in women's collegiate  
32   basketball to compile a record of more than 700 wins; and

33          Whereas, on December 14, 2008, Kay Yow became one of three Division I coaches  
34   to coach 1,000 games at the same school; and

35          Whereas, Kay Yow compiled an impressive collegiate career record of 737-344; and

36          Whereas, Kay Yow also made contributions as a coach on both the national and  
37   international levels, including serving as the head coach of the 1988 United States women's



1 basketball team, which won the gold medal during the Olympics in Seoul, Korea, that year, and  
2 an assistant coach for the gold-medal winning teams of the 1979 World University Games, the  
3 1983 Pan American Games, and the 1984 Olympics; and

4         Whereas, Kay Yow was selected as the National Coach of the Year eight times and  
5 received numerous honors and awards for her outstanding contributions to athletics; and

6         Whereas, Kay Yow was inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, the  
7 North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame, the Elon College Sports Hall of Fame, the Fellowship of  
8 Christian Athletes Hall of Fame, the East Carolina Sports Hall of Fame, and the Guilford  
9 County Hall of Fame; and

10         Whereas, in 2002, Kay Yow was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball  
11 Hall of Fame, becoming one of only five women to have achieved that high honor; and

12         Whereas, in 2007, NCSU dedicated the basketball court in Reynolds Coliseum as  
13 "Kay Yow Court"; and

14         Whereas, in 2007, Kay Yow was awarded the inaugural Spirit of North Carolina  
15 Award, now known as the Kay Yow Spirit of North Carolina Award, and was the State  
16 Employees' Awards for Excellence recipient; and

17         Whereas, Kay Yow was not only a beloved coach, mentor, and teacher, but also a  
18 role model to many whom she inspired during her courageous and public fight against cancer;  
19 and

20         Whereas, Kay Yow helped establish the Jimmy V Women's Golf Classic and the  
21 Kay Yow/WBCA Cancer Fund in partnership with the Jimmy V Foundation to benefit cancer  
22 research; and

23         Whereas, Kay Yow was deeply devoted to her faith, serving as a member of Cary  
24 Alliance Church in Cary, North Carolina; and

25         Whereas, Kay Yow died on January 24, 2009, at the age of 66; and

26         Whereas, Kay Yow is survived by her brother, Ronnie Yow; sisters, Deborah Ann  
27 Yow and Susan Lee Yow; nephews, Jason Andrew Yow, Zachary Lee Yow, and James Dylan  
28 Yow; and one great-niece, Isabelle Kay Yow; Now, therefore,

29 Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

30         **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of Sandra Kay Yow and  
31 expresses the appreciation of this State and its citizens for the contributions she made to  
32 women's athletics and to the lives of people she touched.

33         **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly extends its deepest sympathy to the family of  
34 Sandra Kay Yow for the loss of a much loved family member.

35         **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this  
36 resolution to the family of Sandra Kay Yow, NCSU Athletic Director Lee Fowler, and NCSU  
37 Chancellor Dr. James L. Oblinger.

38         **SECTION 4.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.