

**BILL NO. 30-0395**

**Thirtieth Legislature of the Virgin Islands**

**May 19, 2014**

A Resolution to recognize, honor and commend Megan C. Hodge for her outstanding performance in the sport of volleyball

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**PROPOSED BY:** Senator Shawn-Michael Malone

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1       **WHEREAS**, Megan Colleen Hodge was born on October 15, 1988, in St. Thomas,  
2 Virgin Islands to Michael and Carmen Samuel-Hodge; and

3       **WHEREAS**, at the age of three, her family relocated to Durham, North Carolina; and

4       **WHEREAS**, her mother, Carmen Samuel-Hodge, a former member of the U.S. Virgin  
5 Islands National Volleyball Team, played volleyball at George Washington University; and

6       **WHEREAS**, her father, Michael Hodge, also a former member of the U.S. Virgin Islands  
7 National Volleyball Team, played volleyball at the University of the Virgin Islands; and

8       **WHEREAS**, eventually Megan followed in the footsteps of her parents and other  
9 relatives by playing the “family sport”; and

10       **WHEREAS**, at the age of 12, Megan began playing volleyball at Riverside High School;  
11 and

12       **WHEREAS**, Megan’s power plays developed to the point where she was one of the most  
13 dominant young players in the entire nation; and

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**WHEREAS**, Megan holds the distinction of becoming the first player from the Carolina region to be named to the All-Tournament Team at the USA Junior Olympic Girl’s Volleyball Championships; and

**WHEREAS**, Megan was voted the Most Valuable Player and “Best Attacker” at the 2004 North, Central America and Caribbean (NORCECA) Championships in Catano, Puerto Rico; and

**WHEREAS**, as a student at Riverside High School, Megan was a four time Pac-6 All Conference selection, as well as the Pac-6 Player of the Year twice; and

**WHEREAS**, Megan was selected as the Most Valuable Player of the North Carolina Regional Championships for the 18’s Gold Age Division; and

**WHEREAS**, as a junior and a senior in high school, Megan was named the North Carolina Volleyball Gatorade Player of the Year; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2006, Megan was named the Gatorade National Player of the Year for Volleyball, selected from more than 385,000 female high school volleyball players nationwide; and

**WHEREAS**, Megan was nominated as a finalist for the Gatorade Female High School Athlete of the Year Award; and

**WHEREAS**, Megan Hodge was considered the top school recruit for her high school Class of 2006 with over 150 scholarship offers from several universities including volleyball powerhouses Stanford, South California, Washington and Long Beach State;

**WHEREAS**, Megan accepted a full scholarship from Penn State University; and

**WHEREAS**, in her freshman year at Penn State, Megan’s performance made her the first freshman to be named Big Ten Player of the Year as well as Big Ten Freshman of the Year in the then 23-year history of the Big Ten; and

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**WHEREAS**, Megan holds the distinction of being the first volleyball player to win the Gatorade National Player of the Year and American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) National Freshman of the Year award in consecutive seasons; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2007, Megan Hodge led Penn State to their first NCAA final four appearance since 1999, in which she record a season-high 26 kills and had a key serving string in the decisive fifth game win, serving 6 straight points, which led her to be named the NCAA Championship Most Outstanding Player; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2008, Megan was named the NCAA University Park Regional Most Outstanding Player; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2008, Megan led the Penn State Nittany Lions to their second consecutive NCAA Championship, topping off an undefeated year, and captured the honor of being the NCAA Championship Most Outstanding Player, becoming the third player in NCAA Tournament history to earn the award twice; and

**WHEREAS**, Megan also excelled academically as she was honored as an ESPN The Magazine Second Team Academic All-American in 2008 and later earned the Academic All-American of the Year for volleyball; and

**WHEREAS**, Megan was also a three-time Academic All-Big Ten honoree; and

**WHEREAS**, Megan was named the 2010 Penn State Female Athlete of the Year; and

**WHEREAS**, Megan won the Honda Award for Women’s Volleyball; and

**WHEREAS**, Megan is the first Penn State student athlete to win the prestigious Honda-Broderick Award in the school’s 155-year history; and

**WHEREAS**, the Honda-Broderick Award is awarded to the Top Collegiate Woman Athlete in the country; and

1           **WHEREAS**, on May 16, 2010, Megan Hodge earned her Bachelor of Science in  
2 Business Management from Penn State University, leaving Penn State holding the career record  
3 with 4.54 kills per set; and

4           **WHEREAS**, Megan Hodge moved on to the U.S. Women’s National Volleyball Team,  
5 which won the silver at the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Montreux Volley Masters in Switzerland and competed  
6 at the IX Women’s Volleyball Pan American Cup in Mexico; and

7           **WHEREAS**, Megan competed for Team USA in the 2012 Grand Prix, winning the gold  
8 medal and the Most Valuable Player and Best Scorer awards; and

9           **WHEREAS**, Megan won the silver medal at the 2012 Summer Olympics; and

10          **WHEREAS**, in 2012, Megan was selected as the Most Valuable Player of the Fédération  
11 Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB) World Grand Prix after leading Team USA to a 5-0 record in  
12 the Final Round; and

13          **WHEREAS**, in 2013, in the Pan-American Cup, Megan started all five matches, helping  
14 the U.S. to win the second straight Pan-American Cup and also won the Best Spiker Award and  
15 the gold medal; and

16          **WHEREAS**, this Virgin Islands six feet, three inches outside hitter with a vertical reach  
17 of 10 feet 8 inches has had a distinguished and stellar volleyball career full of accolades and  
18 awards which has distinguished her in the sport from high school to college level to volleyball as  
19 a career; Now, Therefore,

20          ***Be it resolved by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:***

21          **SECTION 1.** The Legislature of the Virgin Islands, on behalf of the People of the Virgin  
22 Islands, recognizes, honors and commends Megan Colleen Hodge for her distinguished and  
23 outstanding career in the sport of volleyball.

24          **SECTION 2.** The President of the Legislature or the President’s designee shall present a  
25 perma plaque copy of this resolution to Megan Colleen Hodge at an appropriate ceremony.

**BILL SUMMARY**

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Section 1 of the Bill recognizes Megan C. Hodge for her distinguished and outstanding career in the sport of volleyball.

Section 2 of the Bill mandates the President of the Legislature to present a perma plaque copy of this resolution to Megan C. Hodge.

**BR13-0756/July 10, 2013/MMH**