

By Senator Baxley

12-03047A-22

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing the Olympic achievements of Ocala athletes Erin Jackson, Brittany Bowe, and Joey Mantia.

WHEREAS, Erin Jackson, Brittany Bowe, and Joey Mantia, three world-class speed skaters from Ocala, represented the United States at the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, China, with Erin Jackson bringing home a gold medal and Brittany Bowe and Joey Mantia bringing home bronze medals, and

WHEREAS, because Ocala has no ice rink, all three started out as inline skaters on the speed inline team coached by Renee Hildebrand before moving on to speed skating on the ice, and

WHEREAS, the three speed skaters also competed for the United States in the 2018 Winter Olympics in PyeongChang, South Korea, with Bowe bringing home a bronze medal in the women's team pursuit event, and

WHEREAS, Erin Jackson, who also competes in roller derby with the Jacksonville RollerGirls of the Women's Flat Track Derby Association, is a world-champion inline skater who was named United States Olympic Committee Female Athlete of the Year for Roller Sports in 2012 and 2013 before making the transition to competing on the ice in 2016, and

WHEREAS, Erin Jackson claimed a spot on Team USA for the 2018 Winter Olympics after only 4 months of experience racing on the ice, and

WHEREAS, Erin Jackson won the gold medal in the women's 500-meter speed skating event in Beijing, becoming the first African-American woman ever to win a medal in speed skating and

12-03047A-22

20221998\_\_

30 the first American woman to win Olympic gold in speed skating  
31 since 2002, and

32 WHEREAS, like her teammate and friend Erin Jackson,  
33 Brittany Bowe first made her mark as a world-champion inline  
34 skater before making the transition to racing on the ice and  
35 moving to Salt Lake City, Utah, to train in 2010, and

36 WHEREAS, at the 2022 Team USA trials, Brittany Bowe gave up  
37 her spot in the 500-meter speed skating event so that Erin  
38 Jackson, who slipped in her race at the trials and barely missed  
39 qualifying, could make the roster, and

40 WHEREAS, Brittany Bowe was one of two athletes chosen to  
41 carry the American flag in the 2022 Olympic opening ceremonies  
42 and went on to compete in the 500-, 1,000-, and 1,500-meter  
43 events in Beijing, winning a bronze medal in the 1,000-meter  
44 event, and

45 WHEREAS, Joey Mantia started skating on roller blades at  
46 the local indoor skating rink and first learned about speed  
47 skating by watching inline skating practice at the rink, going  
48 on to win a string of inline racing world championships and set  
49 numerous world records, and

50 WHEREAS, Joey Mantia switched to racing on the ice in 2010  
51 and moved to Salt Lake City to train, and

52 WHEREAS, Joey Mantia represented Team USA at the 2014  
53 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, and at the 2018 Winter  
54 Olympics in PyeongChang, South Korea, before traveling with Team  
55 USA to the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, and

56 WHEREAS, Joey Mantia won his first Olympic medal by  
57 claiming the bronze in the men's team pursuit in Beijing days  
58 before narrowly missing out on a medal in the mass start event,

12-03047A-22

20221998\_\_

59 and

60 WHEREAS, Erin Jackson, Brittany Bowe, and Joey Mantia  
61 demonstrated outstanding athletic ability and sportsmanship in  
62 the 2022 Winter Olympics and should be applauded as exemplary  
63 Floridians, NOW, THEREFORE,

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65 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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67 That Ocala athletes Erin Jackson, Brittany Bowe, and Joey  
68 Mantia are recognized for their achievements as world-class  
69 athletes and role models.

70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution, with  
71 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to Erin Jackson,  
72 Brittany Bowe, and Joey Mantia as tangible tokens of the  
73 sentiments of the Florida Senate.