

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2025-1071

TITLE: Resolution Declaring April 11th, 2025, and every UF Baseball Opening Day Thereafter Rex and Brody Day

AUTHOR(S): Senator Jocelyn Riley

SPONSOR(S): Senator Caroline Schapansky, Senator Matthew Bravo, Senator Phoenix Cumpstone, Majority Party Leader Rafeh Khan

WHEREAS, Rex and Brody were two 11- and 14-year-old baseball players who were prominent and well-liked in the Gainesville and UF communities before their tragic murder by their father on May 4th, 2021; and,

WHEREAS, neither of them missed a UF home football game since they were 5 weeks old respectively, and were avid Florida Gators fans; and,

WHEREAS, they were both talented baseball players on highly competitive travel teams in the state of Florida with college prospects to come for older brother Rex Reinhart of the Tampa Heat; and

WHEREAS, they are survived by their mother, Minde O’Sullivan, stepdad Kevin O’Sullivan, grandparents Tammy and Mike Prince; and,

WHEREAS, their memory is kept alive additionally by Rex’s best friends Gage Riley, Tyler Whitworth, Gino Palazzolo, and Wyatt Clarke; and,

WHEREAS, following their death, their autopsies and graphic details of their deaths were publicly published directly against the wishes of Mrs. O’Sullivan; and,

WHEREAS, as a result, Mrs. O’Sullivan worked tirelessly to pass CS/SB 404: Public Records/Photograph or Video or Audio Recording of the Killing of a Minor/Autopsy Reports of Minors in the Florida House of Representatives, which she did successfully on April 11th, 2023 [1]; and,

WHEREAS, The Rex and Body Foundation was created in their honor by Mrs. O’Sullivan to “... educate, empower, and equip our youth, through the game of baseball, to positively impact our communities” [2]; and,

WHEREAS, the boys’ ties to the Gainesville and UF baseball community merit a yearly celebration of their lasting legacy; and,

WHEREAS, Brody regularly served as an unofficial batboy for the UF baseball team alongside his best friend, Finn O'Sullivan, and was always in the dugout and locker room; and,

WHEREAS, their memorial service was held on the field at Contron Ballpark (then-Florida Ballpark) on May 17th, 13 days after their passing, with guest speakers Kevin O'Sullivan, head baseball coach at the University of Florida; Will Muschamp, former UF head football coach; and Gary Sheffield, former Major League Baseball player, [3]; and,

WHEREAS, April 11th is the birthdate of their mother and the date that CS/SB 404 passed in the Florida House of Representatives; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the legacy and contributions of Rex and Brody to the UF and Gainesville baseball communities and their merit for yearly recognition; and,

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the importance of honoring those tragically lost before their potential can be realized.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the Student Senate calls for the annual dedication to the celebration of the lives of Rex and Brody and their subsequent impact on the protection of minors in the Florida Sunshine Laws via creating awareness of their story, CS/SB 404, and SG communications.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED, that April 11th, 2025, and every UF Baseball Opening Day thereafter shall be named Rex and Brody Day at the University of Florida.

Proviso: Minde O'Sullivan, Florida Baseball Head Coach Kevin O'Sullivan, Former Florida Sen. Keith Perry, Former Florida Speaker Pro-Tempore Chuck Clemons, Tammy Prince, Mike Prince, and Gage Riley.

[1] <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2023/404>

[2] <https://rexandbrody.com/>

[3] <https://www.gainesville.com/story/news/local/2021/05/17/remembering-rex-brody-reinhart-at-florida-memorial-service/5099292001/>


Julia Seifer
Senate President

3/27/25

Date