



Ottawa Wolves Mourn Passing of Alice Ann Hoagland – Patron of Bingham Cup International Rugby Tournament

JANUARY 18, 2021 -- OTTAWA, CANADA: It is with the heaviest of hearts that we must inform the gay-inclusive rugby community of the peaceful passing of Alice Ann Hoagland on December 22, 2020, mother of Mark Bingham for whom the Bingham Cup rugby tournament is named. Alice was a champion and active advocate for LGBTQI2S rights and aviation safety. Her presence at every Bingham Cup tournament has been a hallmark of the event. She was - in many ways - the matriarch of the gay-inclusive movement. She was strong, kind, joyful and loving mother to us all.

In preparing for the Ottawa edition of the Bingham Cup, we were keenly aware of Alice's wish to see the tournament leave a lasting legacy wherever it was hosted. We are saddened that she will not be able to attend the ceremony in which a rugby pitch was going to be named after Mark in Canada's capital, as we were looking forward to hosting her in Ottawa during the tournament. We know that she, along with Mark, will be there in spirit and the organising committee will ensure that their memories are celebrated honourably in August 2022.

At the request of family, we have set up a donation page. The funds collected will solely be used to ensure the Bingham Cup tournament, and the legacies of both Alice and Mark, continue for generations to come.

The Mark Kendall Bingham Memorial Tournament, or Bingham Cup as it is more widely known, is the biennial world championships of gay and inclusive rugby. The tournament was first held in 2002 in memory of 9/11 gay rugby hero Mark Bingham, one of the passengers who fought back against hijackers on board United Airlines flight 93. While Mark and all on the flight tragically lost their lives when the plane crashed near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, it is widely recognized that through the actions of those brave individuals on board, the plane did not continue on to its intended target, which is thought to have been Washington, DC. From its modest debut in 2002, the 2018 edition of the Bingham Cup in Amsterdam gathered 74 teams from 20 countries. The Bingham Cup has become the largest amateur rugby union tournament in the world.

The 2020 edition of the Bingham Cup was to be hosted by the Ottawa Wolves RFC in Ottawa, Canada. Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the tournament was postponed to August 2022. The Ottawa Wolves is a Rugby Football Club for men and women in Canada's National Capital Region. The Club was founded in 2008 with the mission to promote and encourage participation in rugby among those who have traditionally been under-represented in the game. The team members are predominantly part of the LGBTQ+ community, but diverse in its make-up, and inclusive of everyone.

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