

2014 -- S 2843

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING ITS DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF BOSTON
FIREFIGHTERS LIEUTENANT EDWARD J. WALSH, JR., AND FIREFIGHTER MICHAEL
R. KENNEDY

Introduced By: Senators Algiere, E O'Neill, Paiva Weed, Felag, and Walaska

Date Introduced: April 01, 2014

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, There is a special place in all of our hearts for the heroic people who, as part
2 of their duties, rush into dangerous and precarious situations and risk their lives in order to serve
3 society and protect innocent life. Boston firefighters Lieutenant Edward J. Walsh, Jr., and
4 Firefighter Michael R. Kennedy were two such brave souls; and

5 WHEREAS, Lieutenant Walsh and Firefighter Kennedy perished on Wednesday, March
6 26, 2014, while fighting one of the worst Boston fires of the last thirty years. This nine-alarm fire
7 consumed a Boston brownstone in the Back Bay neighborhood and injured thirteen of their fellow
8 firefighters. The fire, aided by high winds, spread quickly and tragically trapped Walsh and
9 Kennedy in the basement. There is nothing more heroic than losing one's life while serving
10 others. Lieutenant Walsh and Firefighter Kennedy each answered the highest calling humanity
11 can ask of any one individual; and

12 WHEREAS, Lieutenant Walsh and Firefighter Kennedy instinctively did what they were
13 trained to do, what their duty in life was to do, when they rushed into a burning inferno to save
14 lives. With strong wind gusts pushing flames in different directions and fiery explosions
15 threatening to occur at any moment, Lieutenant Walsh and Firefighter Kennedy put personal
16 safety aside and fought valiantly to get control of this deadly fire. Thanks to their efforts, no other
17 homes in the surrounding area were damaged and no person living in that community was harmed
18 by this fire; and

19 WHEREAS, All too often in life, we take as our role models and heroes the stars of the

1 pop culture and sporting worlds. However, our real heroes are the dedicated public servants who
2 rush into danger at a moment's notice to serve the public. Heroes like Lieutenant Walsh and
3 Firefighter Kennedy ensure that the rest of us can go about our daily lives secure in the
4 knowledge that there are brave firefighters ready to sacrifice everything to protect our lives and
5 property; and

6 WHEREAS, Lieutenant Edward J. Walsh, a nine year veteran of the Boston Fire
7 Department, leaves behind his wife Kristen and his three children, Dillon Edward, Morgan
8 Kathleen, and Griffin William. He was a gentleman and a respected leader who grew up in
9 Watertown, Massachusetts, and spent much of his younger years hanging around the fire station
10 with his father, who reached the rank of Lieutenant in the fire department, and other members of
11 his family who were firefighters including numerous uncles, a brother-in-law and a cousin. He
12 will be sorely missed by his family, loved ones and his fellow firefighters with the Boston Fire
13 Department; and

14 WHEREAS, Firefighter Michael R. Kennedy, a firefighter with more than six years of
15 experience and a Marine combat veteran who served our nation with valor and honor in Iraq, was
16 one of the first responders to the tragic Boston Marathon bombings in April of 2013. He will be
17 remembered as a highly energetic young man who devoted countless hours of his time in service
18 to his community and various charitable endeavors. He will also be sorely missed by his family,
19 loved ones, and his fellow firefighters with the Boston Fire Department; now, therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
21 hereby expresses its deepest condolences to the Walsh and Kennedy families on the passing of
22 Boston Fire Department Lieutenant Edward J. Walsh and Boston Firefighter Michael R.
23 Kennedy. All of our thoughts and prayers are with the families and loved ones of these two
24 heroes. We can never repay the debt we owe them for their service and sacrifice on our behalf;
25 and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
27 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Mrs. Kristen Walsh and Family, Paul Kennedy,
28 and Kathy Crosby-Bell and her husband William Bell.

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