

2019 -- H 5003

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

**EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE GEORGE
HERBERT WALKER BUSH, 41ST PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES**

Introduced By: Representatives Mattiello, Shekarchi, Filippi, Newberry, and
Quattrocchi

Date Introduced: January 02, 2019

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, The Honorable George Herbert Walker Bush was born on June 12, 1924, in
2 Milton, Massachusetts, son of Prescott Sheldon Bush and Dorothy Walker Bush. He attended the
3 Greenwich Country Day School as a youngster, and the Phillips Academy as a teenager starting
4 in 1938. He was a popular student who quickly exhibited his highly regarded leadership abilities
5 and his well-known love of sports, serving as the President of the Senior Class and the
6 Community Fund-Raising Group, and as the Captain of the varsity baseball and soccer teams; and

7 WHEREAS, President Bush enlisted in the United States Navy soon after the United
8 States entered World War II following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. He soon earned his
9 wings as a Naval Aviator and shortly thereafter he saw combat in the Pacific Theater. In an
10 assigned attack on the Japanese-held Bonin Islands, he flew his plane through hellacious flak and
11 despite his engine catching on fire, he steadied his plane into attack formation and dropped
12 several bombs on his target. Tragically, his two crew mates perished while he was able to
13 parachute out of the plane and get rescued by a United States submarine. President Bush would
14 often say that he thought about his two lost crewmates every day of his life; and

15 WHEREAS, While still serving in the United States Navy, President Bush married the
16 love of his life, Barbara Pierce Bush, in 1945. Together they were married for 73 years, the
17 longest presidential marriage in United States history. They had six children, President George
18 Walker Bush, Pauline "Robin" Robinson Bush, who tragically passed away from Leukemia at the
19 age of 3, John Ellis "Jeb" Bush, who served as the Governor of Florida, Neil Bush, Marvin Pierce

1 Bush, and Dorothy Walker "Doro" Bush Koch; and

2 WHEREAS, Shortly after receiving his Honorable Discharge from the United States
3 Navy, President Bush attended Yale University, earning an undergraduate degree in economics in
4 only two-and-a-half years on an accelerated program. He was elected to serve as President of the
5 Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity, and served as the Captain of the Yale baseball team, playing in
6 the first two College World Series as a first baseman; and

7 WHEREAS, After graduating from Yale, President Bush and his family moved to Texas,
8 where he embarked on a successful and lucrative business career in the petroleum industry.
9 Beginning in the 1960's, President Bush began to become interested in embarking on a public
10 service career. He was elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1966, serving
11 until 1971, when he lost a close race for the United States Senate. From 1971 to 1973, he served
12 as the Ambassador to the United Nations, as the Chairman of the Republican National Committee
13 from 1973 to 1974, as Head of the Liaison Office in China from 1974 to 1975, and as the Director
14 of Central Intelligence from 1976 to 1977. In 1980 he ran for President unsuccessfully but thanks
15 to his sterling record of public service and vast experience, he was chosen to serve as President
16 Reagan's Vice-President, a position he held for eight years; and

17 WHEREAS, In 1988, President Bush ran for the presidency and secured the GOP
18 nomination in a hard-fought victory over Senator Robert Dole. He then went on to easily defeat
19 Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis to become the 41st President of the United States; and

20 WHEREAS, President Bush's presidency from 1989 to 1993 has received high marks
21 from many historians, especially for his foreign policy achievements. Under his watch, the Cold
22 War ended, with the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact, the dismantling of the Berlin Wall, the
23 "symbol of communist oppression", and the reunification of Germany. He also used United States
24 forces to depose Panamanian Dictator Manuel Noriega, and in the Gulf War, he forged a coalition
25 that used force to remove Iraqi forces from Kuwait after Saddam Hussein invaded that
26 independent nation in 1990; and

27 WHEREAS, President Bush left the White House in 1993, and over the last 25 years
28 proved to be one of the most popular former presidents in the United States. He got to see his
29 eldest child, George W. Bush, get elected and re-elected to the Presidency. He forged close
30 friendships with former Presidents James Carter, William Clinton, and Barack Obama, and
31 together they worked in bi-partisan fashion in support of a number of charitable and worthy
32 causes. President George H. W. Bush was widely admired across the States for the life he lived,
33 one of great faith in a loving God, for his love, service and sacrifice to our great nation, for being
34 a wonderfully loving husband, father and friend to many, and for his self-effacing sense of

1 humor. While his death is a grievous affair, we can take joy that he is now reunited with his wife
2 Barbara and his daughter Robin; now, therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
4 Providence Plantations hereby expresses its deepest regrets on the passing of the Honorable
5 George Herbert Walker Bush, 41st President of the United States; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
7 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Bush Family.

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