

2025 -- H 5242

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF FRIEDRICH ST.  
FLORIAN

Introduced By: Representatives Ajello, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Handy, Tanzi, Boylan,  
Speakman, Cortvriend, Potter, and Spears

Date Introduced: January 30, 2025

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, It is with deep sadness that this House has learned of the passing of  
2 Friedrich St. Florian, a talented artist and admired teacher. He was the beloved husband of Livia  
3 St. Florian for 57 years; and

4           WHEREAS, Friedrich St. Florian was born in Graz, Austria, and graduated from the  
5 Technische Universität Graz. Mr. St. Florian came to the United States shortly thereafter through  
6 the prestigious Fulbright Fellowship program, and proceeded to earn a master's degree in  
7 Architecture from Columbia University; and

8           WHEREAS, Mr. St. Florian arrived in Providence in 1963 when he accepted a position to  
9 join the faculty at the Rhode Island School of Design. A move to Rome through RISD proved to  
10 be most fortuitous for Mr. St. Florian as that is where he met the love of his life, Livia. They soon  
11 married, and together, he returned to Providence to continue his academic career at RISD; and

12           WHEREAS, A rising star in academia, Mr. St. Florian was selected to serve as the Dean  
13 of Architectural Studies at RISD from 1978 to 1988, and later served as the Acting Provost for  
14 Academic Affairs at RISD from 1981 to 1984. Mr. St. Florian's distinguished academic career  
15 also included teaching at MIT at the Center for Advanced Visual Studies for several years in the  
16 1970s. In addition to his more than fifty years of teaching and administrative service at RISD, Mr.  
17 St. Florian also, for decades, maintained a thriving architectural practice in downtown  
18 Providence; and

19           WHEREAS, Friedrich St. Florian has been described as being the most important Rhode

1 Island architect of the second half of the 20th century. Mr. St. Florian received many honors  
2 throughout his career and won global competitions against some of the world's most renowned  
3 architects. Mr. St. Florian had the high honor of having his drawings included in the permanent  
4 collections of the Museum of Modern Art in New York City and the Centre Georges Pompidou,  
5 and the RISD Art Museum. His most significant and lasting achievement was the design of the  
6 World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., a project he worked on for more than a decade and  
7 something for which Mr. St. Florian was honored and proud to have been a part of creating; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. St. Florian had resided in his adopted home, Providence, for 57 years,  
9 with his wife Livia, and had lived the last 35 years in the home he designed. This beautiful house  
10 and living space was the site of numerous wonderful gatherings and celebrations; and

11 WHEREAS, In addition to his wife, Livia, Mr. St. Florian leaves behind his daughters,  
12 Alisia and her husband, Ben Medoff, and Ilaria and her husband, Maarten Kruijtzter, and his five  
13 grandchildren, Julia, Alex, Clara, Thom, and Ellie; now, therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
15 expresses its deepest condolences to the St. Florian Family; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
17 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Livia St. Florian and Family.

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