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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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

**EXPRESSING OUR DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF
THE HONORABLE RICHARD H. "POP" JOHNSON**

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Naughton, Mattiello, Fox, and Kennedy

Date Introduced: February 13, 2013

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, It is with great sadness that this House has learned of the passing of The
2 Honorable Richard H. "Pop" Johnson, a man whose life and achievements will live on for many
3 years to come in the memories of everyone fortunate enough to have been touched by the quality
4 of this remarkable gentleman; and

5 WHEREAS, Richard was the son of the late Henry E. and Catherine (Lynch) Johnson.
6 He was the devoted husband of Jean L. (Auckerman) and leaves behind four daughters, Kathleen
7 V. Zabbo, Susan J. LeComte, and her husband, Richard, Mary C. Johnson, and Alice V. Johnson,
8 and one son, Philip H. Johnson, and his wife, Wendy, a brother, Robert J. Johnson, and sister,
9 Carol Iannuzzi. He was the proud grandfather to seven grandchildren and five great
10 grandchildren. He was the father of the late James V. Johnson and father-in-law of the late Dr.
11 August Zabbo; and

12 WHEREAS, "Pop" graduated from LaSalle Academy, Class of 1949, where he was All-
13 State, All-New England National School Boy Champion in track and cross country and team
14 captain. He was also a graduate of Providence College, Class of 1953, where he was a member of
15 the track and cross country, team captain, class treasurer, and cross country honorable mention.
16 He received his education degree from Rhode Island College; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Johnson served Rhode Island in many capacities. He was a member of
18 the Rhode Island House of Representatives, where he represented District 34 for eight years, and
19 as a councilman for the City of Warwick for a short time. Pop was President of the RI Track and

1 Field Association, and was elected to the Track Coaches Hall of Fame and Warwick Veterans
2 Memorial High School Coaches Hall of Fame. A communicant of St. Rita Church, he served as
3 trustee and was a member of the Holy Name Society. Pop received the Jefferson Award, was
4 director of the Warwick Summer Head Start Program, and founder and first president of JONAH,
5 Inc; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Johnson, "Pop," was an educator at the Lockwood School for two years
7 and also at Warwick Veterans Memorial High School for 32 years, where he served as a track
8 coach before retiring in 1987; and

9 WHEREAS, Even though we are diminished by this loss and mourn the passing of
10 Richard, so must we celebrate the spirit, generosity, and courage with which he lived every day of
11 his life; now, therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
13 Providence Plantations hereby expresses our deepest sympathies to the entire Johnson Family on
14 the passing of the Honorable Richard H. "Pop" Johnson; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
16 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mrs. Jean Johnson.

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