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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

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

EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF WILLIAM H. LANG

Introduced By: Representatives Naughton, McNamara, Ferri, Palumbo, and Bennett

Date Introduced: April 26, 2011

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, It is with great sadness that this House has learned of the passing of
2 William H. Lang, devoted husband and father, former CEO of Kent County Hospital, and a
3 dedicated and well-respected member of the Warwick community; and

4 WHEREAS, William H. Lang was born in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, the son of the late
5 John and Mary Lang. He was the devoted husband of Marilyn Lang, the father of Alexander
6 Lang, William Lang, Kim Cotton, Deborah Lewis, Cynthia Shaw, and Richard Shaw, and the
7 cherished grandfather of twelve grandchildren and one great grandchild; and

8 WHEREAS, A graduate of Pawtucket West High School, Mr. Lang spent the years
9 following his high school graduation as a pipe fitter and welder for World War II transport ships.
10 When the war ended, he continued his education, receiving his Bachelor's degree from the
11 University of Rhode Island's College of Pharmacy; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Lang's college years were indicative of the leadership qualities he
13 possessed and would hone throughout his life. He was President of his class for all four of his
14 college years, was the recipient of the Distinguished Achievement Award, and became President
15 of the Alumni Association upon graduation; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Lang began his career in health care as a Pharmacist at Union Hospital
17 in Fall River. In 1952, he was hired as the first Pharmacist for the new Kent County Memorial
18 Hospital, and in 1960, was named Administrator and CEO of the hospital, a position he held until
19 his retirement in 1985; and

20 WHEREAS, Throughout his distinguished career, Mr. Lang was dedicated to enhancing

1 the hospital's and staff's commitment and impact on the community. He developed the Hospital
2 Pharmacists of Rhode Island, which eventually led to the New England Society of Hospital
3 Pharmacists, groups that have helped to minimize medication and prescription errors and
4 mistakes; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Lang's talents were abundant, and Kent Hospital and the patients and
6 staff it serves and employs benefited immensely. Kent Hospital saw tremendous growth during
7 his tenure at the helm, going from a 90-bed to a 365-bed capacity. He also helped to establish
8 Home Care at the hospital and instituted the first outpatient surgery unit in Rhode Island, to name
9 just a few of his many accomplishments; and

10 WHEREAS, Deeply committed to his profession as well as the community, Mr. Lang
11 served as President of the Hospital Association of Rhode Island, on the Board of Trustees at Kent
12 County Hospital, as a member of the Governor's Mental Health Commission, the Naval Civilian
13 Council, and St. Andrew's Society of Rhode Island, and as the Chairman for Citizen's Advisory
14 Committee on Emergency Medical Services; and

15 WHEREAS, The recipient of myriad awards and honors, Mr. Lang was recently honored
16 with the prestigious Dean's List Award from the University of Rhode Island College of
17 Pharmacy. He was also the co-author of "The Imperishable Gift: Kent Hospital, The First Fifty
18 Years"; and

19 WHEREAS, An ultimate professional, Mr. Lang treated those around him with kindness,
20 dignity, respect, and grace, and there is no doubt that this humble and soft-spoken gentleman left
21 Kent Hospital and Rhode Island a far better place because of his life's endeavors. His
22 compassion, integrity, and vision enriched the lives of all who knew him, and he will be greatly
23 missed; now, therefore be

24 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
25 Providence Plantations hereby expresses our deepest sympathies on the passing of William H.
26 Lang; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
28 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Marilyn S. Shaw-Lang.

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