

2021 -- H 6223

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF CECELIA MAKOR  
PREMY

Introduced By: Representatives Diaz, Blazejewski, Biah, Williams, Ranglin-Vassell,  
Fogarty, Donovan, Ajello, Shallcross Smith, and McGaw

Date Introduced: April 13, 2021

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Cecelia Makor Premy was born in 1945 in Liberia to Suah and Nema  
2 Makor. She later met Peace Corps volunteer Stan Premy and they were married in 1970; and

3 WHEREAS, When Cecelia and her husband moved to Providence in 1971, she became  
4 one of the first native Liberians to settle in the city. After establishing herself in Rhode Island, she  
5 began the process of bringing her extended family members to the United States. She is widely  
6 credited for being at least partly responsible for the large Liberian presence in Providence; and

7 WHEREAS, Cecelia would make Rhode Island history once again when she opened the  
8 first African restaurant in Providence, Cecelia's West African Restaurant. She became an  
9 institution in the city, introducing delectable Liberian cuisine and West African culture to many  
10 within the metropolitan region. Cecelia's was also the first establishment to host a Reggae night  
11 in Rhode Island; and

12 WHEREAS, Cecelia also had a long and distinguished career as an IPA at the John  
13 Pastore Medical Center in Cranston, where she was beloved by her co-workers, superiors, and the  
14 people she served. She was a tireless worker who made a positive difference in the lives of all the  
15 people she encountered; and

16 WHEREAS, Cecelia was an expert in African Traditional Dance and was awarded a  
17 grant from the Rhode Island Foundation to teach African dance. After retiring in 2010, she started  
18 the Makor Dancing Feet Culture Troop to introduce Liberian culture and dance to Rhode Island.  
19 The Troop consisted of neighborhood children, including her nieces and nephews, and they had a

1 major impact on the local arts scene, performing at the Providence Performing Arts Center,  
2 appearing at the International Day festivities at RISD and Brown University, performing for the  
3 former President of Liberia, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, and even danced in a major motion picture  
4 starring Wesley Snipes; and

5 WHEREAS, Cecelia Makor Premy leaves behind her daughters, Mona and Marjay  
6 Abourjeily, and sons, William, Nicolas and Michael Abourjeily, and Samuel Paye, her brother  
7 Alfred Makor, sisters Lucelia Watler and Sarah Abourjeily. She was preceded in death by her  
8 daughter Sylvia Premy, brothers Dolo Makor, John Makor, Frank Makor Sr., James Makor,  
9 Francis Makor, Sr., Paye-Paye Makor, Cammue Bomono Makor, Benjamin Makor, Kollie Suah  
10 Owah, Arthur Makor, and Paye Makor, and sisters Lorpu Menlikia-Makor, Nowai Koliwoe  
11 Makor, Kebeh Monopeli Cooper, Gormah Makor, Torwon Labanue and Mai Makor Diggs. She  
12 also leaves behind many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends; and

13 WHEREAS, Cecelia was a gifted story-teller who loved to laugh, smile, wear bright  
14 outfits, and make others happy. She was an adventurous world traveler who made friends across  
15 the globe. Most importantly, she was devoted to her family and friends and will be long-  
16 remembered for her many years of exemplary service to the community and those in need of  
17 assistance; now, therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
19 expresses its deepest condolences to the Makor Premy Family on the passing of Cecelia Makor  
20 Premy; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
22 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Alfred W. Makor, Lucelia Watler, Sarah  
23 Abourjeily, Mona Abourjeily, Marjay Abourjeily, William Abourjeily, Nicolas Abourjeily,  
24 Michael Abourjeily, and Samuel S. Paye.

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