

2021 -- H 6345

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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 THE HONORABLE  
JUDGE WILLIAM C. HILLMAN (RETIRED)

Introduced By: Representatives Blazejewski, Shekarchi, Kislak, Filippi, Shallcross  
Smith, Fellela, Ajello, and Tanzi

Date Introduced: May 18, 2021

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, It is with sadness and regret that this House has learned of the passing of  
2 Judge William C. Hillman, a highly respected retired Chief Judge of the United States  
3 Bankruptcy Court for the District of Massachusetts, and a member of the Bankruptcy Appellate  
4 Panel for the First Circuit; and

5           WHEREAS, Justice Hillman was born in Providence, the son of Harold and Anne  
6 Hillman. He graduated from the University of Chicago and the Boston University School of Law.  
7 He began his distinguished legal career in 1957 and was a widely respected commercial and  
8 banking lawyer who was admired for his tireless work ethic and for being a mentor to many  
9 young lawyers. He also taught bankruptcy law at several law schools; and

10           WHEREAS, From 1959 to 1965, Justice Hillman served our nation with honor and  
11 distinction as a member of the United States Army Reserves, reaching the rank of Captain; and

12           WHEREAS, Justice Hillman was a prodigious legal author throughout his career,  
13 authoring numerous scholarly articles and editing and updating several commercial law books. In  
14 1969, he became a member of the Uniform Law Commission, and helped to develop uniform  
15 state laws which included important modernizations to the Uniform Commercial Code, which  
16 fostered consistency in commercial transactions; and

17           WHEREAS, In recognition of his legal acumen and wise judicial temperament, Justice  
18 Hillman was appointed to the United States Bankruptcy Court in 1991, reappointed in 2005, and  
19 served on the court until August 14, 2015. He also served as the Court's Chief Justice from 1998

1 to 2002; and

2 WHEREAS, During his distinguished twenty-four years as a Justice, Judge Hillman  
3 wrote more than 600 opinions, and was held in high esteem by his fellow colleagues on the courts  
4 for his abiding integrity, high intelligence and his uncanny ability to distill a complicated problem  
5 or question to its essence. He was a Justice of high professional standards but was always  
6 unassuming and willing to help anyone in need of assistance; and

7 WHEREAS, While serving on the bench, Justice Hillman traveled to many places in the  
8 former Soviet Union to educate their local judges about United States Bankruptcy law. He also  
9 volunteered to hold a weekly Bankruptcy Courtroom in Barnstable, Cape Cod, in order to relieve  
10 parties from the burden of having to travel to Boston. Upon retiring in 2015, the Court named his  
11 former courtroom in his honor and in recognition of his invaluable contributions to the courts and  
12 our nation's legal system; and

13 WHEREAS, Justice Hillman was the beloved husband of Eleanor Radin. He is also  
14 survived by his son, Dan Hillman, his children by marriage, Peter, Deba and Michael, and his  
15 grandchildren, Sara, Sam and Chasen. He is also survived by his brother, Richard, and was the  
16 father of the late Harold Hillman; now, therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
18 expresses its deepest condolences to Eleanor Radin and the entire Hillman Family on the passing  
19 of the Honorable Justice William C. Hillman (Retired). He will forever be remembered as a  
20 highly respected and admired Judge who presided with fairness and justice, and served the people  
21 of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and our nation with integrity and excellence; and be it  
22 further

23 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
24 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Eleanor Radin and the Hillman Family.

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