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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE JAMES F.
DAVEY

Introduced By: Representatives Fenton-Fung, Place, Nardone, J. Brien, Bennett,
McNamara, Newberry, Corvese, Shekarchi, and Blazejewski

Date Introduced: January 02, 2024

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, It is with deep sadness that this House has learned of the passing of James F.
2 Davey, our former colleague and longtime resident of Rhode Island; and

3 WHEREAS, James Davey was born on Parris Island, South Carolina, to a Navy family.
4 He was a son of the late Admiral Thomas and Catherine Davey, and was the devoted husband of
5 his late wife, Carmelita "Connie" Davey; and

6 WHEREAS, Common to life in a military family, James Davey travelled extensively as a
7 young man due to his father receiving new assignments from the United States Navy. One of his
8 homes was on Ford Island in Pearl Harbor, where he witnessed the horrific attack by the Japanese
9 on the United States on the fateful day of December 7th, 1941. For the rest of his life, he
10 remembered watching battleship row torn asunder in flames and the deaths and serious injuries to
11 the sailors, many of whom had befriended him while he would watch them work; and

12 WHEREAS, At a later date, when it was safe to sail, Mr. Davey's family left Hawaii and
13 moved to Rhode Island, where he developed his lifelong devotion to the Boston Red Sox. He was
14 a smart and athletic teenager who went on to graduate from North Kingstown High School and
15 the University of Rhode Island, where he met the love of his life, Connie Trigo, whom he married
16 in 1960, and together raised two children; and

17 WHEREAS, James Davey moved to Virginia in the early 1960s and began his long and
18 distinguished public service career. His first position was with the United States Department of
19 Agriculture, where he served as an Auditor both at home and abroad. During this period, he

1 attended evening classes at Georgetown Law School and after attaining his law degree, he was
2 selected to join a small task force whose job was to conduct a management review of the
3 Washington D.C. court system. His stellar work on this project led to a career in federal court
4 administration; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1970, Mr. Davey was appointed the Chief Clerk of the U.S. District
6 Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, a position he held until his retirement in 1991. He
7 was widely admired for his legal acumen, tireless work ethic, and for being an innovator and
8 reformer. Many of his initiatives would be adopted by all of the Federal Courts. Once again, key
9 historical events touched Mr. Davey's life, including the Watergate trials, the Pentagon Papers,
10 and the trial of John Hinckley. He also served as the President of the Federal Clerks' Association
11 (FCAA) in 1976; and

12 WHEREAS, Among his many accomplishments, Mr. Davey served a term in the Rhode
13 Island House of Representatives, climbed mountains, and ran marathons. His other interests
14 included travelling the world, playing softball, body surfing, kayaking, skydiving, playing card
15 games and following his beloved Boston Red Sox, but most important always in his life was his
16 family; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Davey leaves behind his son and daughter-in-law, Scott and Kathleen
18 Davey, his grandchildren, Kelly, Patrick, Ryan and Sean, and his daughter and son-in-law, Lynn
19 Davey and Benjamin Dudley. He is also survived by his brothers Thomas Davey and John Davey
20 and his wife, Barbara, and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his sister,
21 Catherine; now, therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
23 expresses its deepest condolences on the passing of the Honorable James F. Davey; and be it
24 further

25 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
26 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Scott Davey, and Lynn Davey and Family.

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