

2022 -- H 7045

=====
LC003595
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF WILLIAM J. "BILL"
FONTAINE, BATTALION CHIEF, CCFD (RET)

Introduced By: Representatives Noret, Serpa, Casey, Hull, Shekarchi, Blazejewski,
Filippi, Messier, Kennedy, and Fellela

Date Introduced: January 11, 2022

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, It is with deep sadness that this House has learned of the passing of Mr.
2 William J. "Bill" Fontaine, CCFD, (RET), the beloved husband of Laurie C. Smith. He was born
3 in Providence, a son of Jeanne Finnerty and the late Edward Finnerty; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Fontaine was a hard-working man his entire life who strove daily to
5 provide for his family and loved ones and to protect the community. He had been the former
6 proprietor of Bill's Package Store in the Harris section of Coventry for more than twenty years;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Fontaine began his distinguished firefighting career in 1980, when he
9 joined the Harris Fire Department. Thanks to his tireless work ethic and sterling leadership
10 qualities, Mr. Fontaine quickly rose through the ranks, and in 1988, was named the Chief of the
11 Harris Fire Department, a position he held until it was merged with the Coventry Fire Department
12 in 2006. He stepped down as Chief and became a Battalion Chief for the Central Coventry Fire
13 Department until his retirement. He was well-regarded and highly respected by all of his
14 colleagues and peers; and

15 WHEREAS, In addition to his wife, Laurie, and mother, Jeanne Finnerty, Mr. Fontaine
16 leaves behind several nieces and nephews, and many friends. He also adored his two dogs, Penny
17 and Chiefy; now, therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
19 expresses our deepest condolences to Laurie C. Smith and Jeanne Finnerty on the passing of

1 William J. Fontaine, Battalion Chief, CCFD, (Ret); and it further

2 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to

3 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Laurie Smith and Jeanne Finnerty.

=====
LC003595
=====