

2022 -- H 7591

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE  
ANTHONY J. SOLOMON

Introduced By: Representatives Solomon, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Corvese, Baginski,  
Carson, Kazarian, Vella-Wilkinson, Slater, and McNamara

Date Introduced: March 01, 2022

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, It is great sadness that this House has learned of the passing of the  
2 Honorable Anthony Solomon, a distinguished public servant who served our state with honor and  
3 integrity as General Treasurer as well as a member of the Rhode Island House of Representatives;  
4 and

5           WHEREAS, Anthony Solomon was born in Providence to a close-knit Lebanese family  
6 and lived in Providence his entire life. He was the son of the late Joseph and Nazha Solomon,  
7 both of whom were emigres from a very small village in Kfarsghab, in northern Lebanon. When  
8 many of the people of Kfarsghab left Lebanon to seek a better life in the United States, almost all  
9 went to three places, Sydney, Australia, Easton, Pennsylvania, and Providence, Rhode Island. Mr.  
10 Solomon married the love of his life, Sarah (Symia) Solomon of Easton, Pennsylvania, in 1954  
11 and they were married for more than fifty years until her passing in 2006; and

12           WHEREAS, Anthony Solomon graduated from LaSalle Academy, Providence College  
13 and the Rhode Island College of Pharmacy. He then proceeded to found Anthony's Pharmacy in  
14 the Olneyville neighborhood of Providence when he was 25 and owned and operated the store for  
15 many years. As a pharmacist, Mr. Solomon was a beloved and highly admired figure who always  
16 had deep compassion for those in need of assistance, be it someone who was a little late in his  
17 payment for a product or service, or taking a call late at night from a customer to fill a much-  
18 needed prescription; and

19           WHEREAS, In 1966, Mr. Solomon was elected to the Rhode Island House of

1 Representatives, serving the citizens of District 11, until 1977. In 1976, he was elected to the  
2 position of General Treasurer for the State of Rhode Island, a position he held until 1984, when  
3 he ran for Governor. He was reelected General Treasurer in 1988, and served until 1993, when he  
4 retired for health reasons; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Solomon's tenure as General Treasure was praised by almost all  
6 observers. He was credited with transforming the Office of the General Treasurer into a modern  
7 organization and for skillfully handling the public's finances. His integrity and credibility were  
8 lauded by all of his peers. He was member of the National Association of State Treasurers and  
9 served as that body's President in 1980-1981; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Solomon was an active member of numerous civic, religious and  
11 political associations throughout his life. He was very proud of the work he and his wife  
12 conducted as founding members of the National Association/Apostolate of Maronites (NAM). He  
13 enjoyed traveling across the country with NAM and meeting Lebanese American Maronite  
14 Catholics in every State of the Union. Mr. Solomon also served as the President of this lay  
15 organization during its formative years and was an active member of NAM for more than fifty  
16 years; and

17 WHEREAS, Locally, Mr. Solomon was a devoted parishioner of St. George's Maronite  
18 Catholic Church, now located in Cranston. In 1979, Mr. Solomon and his wife were given the  
19 prestigious Gold Massabki Award by the National Apostolate in recognition of "their true  
20 Christian Values, qualities of national leadership and example to the Apostolate, and devotion  
21 above and beyond the call of duty to the Maronite Church in the United States." Mr. Solomon  
22 was also named Man of the Year in 1979 by the Christian Brothers Association of LaSalle  
23 Academy; and

24 WHEREAS, Mr. Solomon was the devoted husband of the late Sarah Solomon. He leaves  
25 behind his children, Donna Harrison, former Providence City Council President, Michael  
26 Solomon, Sharon Solomon-Santilli, and Anthony Solomon. He also leaves behind his in-laws  
27 Denise Solomon, Mark Santilli, Sr., Nancy Solomon, and the late Andy Harrison. He was the  
28 devoted grandfather, lovingly known as "Jiddo", to Elissa Kingsland and Anthony Harrison, III,  
29 Tarah Provencal and her husband, Paul, Alanna Scott and her husband, James, Lauren Monaco  
30 and her husband, Sean, Lindsay Lynch and her husband, Timothy, Mark Santilli, Jr., and his wife,  
31 Stephanie, and Samantha Sowik and her husband, Jason. Mr. Solomon also leaves behind 12  
32 great-great-grandchildren, Adele, Milan, Deacon, Violet, Elliot, Michael, Isla, Emilia,  
33 Christopher, Nora, Layne, and Noah. Mr. Solomon leaves behind his brother, Donald Solomon  
34 and his sister-in-law Jeannette Solomon. He also leaves behind his great-nephew, the Honorable

1 Rhode Island State Representative Joseph Solomon, Jr., and many nieces, nephews, and cousins  
2 across the globe; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Solomon was predeceased by his siblings, Sam Solomon and his wife,  
4 Rose, Jean Azar and her husband, Tanous, and John Solomon, Sr. He also is predeceased by his  
5 uncle Fred Simon and aunts Eva and Hilda Simon; now, therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
7 expresses its deepest condolences on the passing of the Honorable Anthony J. Solomon; and be it  
8 further

9 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
10 transmit duly certifies copies of this resolution to Donna Harrison, the Honorable Michael  
11 Solomon, Sharon Solomon-Santilli, and Anthony Solomon.

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