

**2016 -- H 7941**

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LC005478  
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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016**

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**H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N**

**EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF JUSTIN ABRAMS**

Introduced By: Representative Blake Anthony Filippi

Date Introduced: March 15, 2016

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, It is with great sadness that this House has learned of the passing of Justin  
2 Abrams, a well-admired resident of Block Island, and the loving husband of the late Joan  
3 Abrams. He was also the adored father of Rita Draper and her husband, Steven, Mark Abrams  
4 and his wife, Sonya, and the late Rick Abrams and his wife, Susan, and the devoted companion of  
5 Debbi-Jo Horton; and

6           WHEREAS, Blessed with a large and loving family, Mr. Abrams was the proud  
7 grandfather of Kyle Draper and his wife, Terin, Seth Draper, Ross Draper, Sam Abrams and his  
8 wife, Holly, Philip Abrams, Archie Abrams, Stanley Abrams and Sydney Abrams, and his great  
9 grandchildren, Carmyn and Gavin Draper, and Oliver and Emmett Abrams; and

10           WHEREAS, Born in Providence, Justin Abrams was the son of the late Etta and Sigmund  
11 Abrams, and the brother of Burton Abrams and his wife, Joyce. He was a graduate of Hope High  
12 School and upon graduation, attended King's Point Merchant Marine Academy and joined the  
13 United States Merchant Marines, serving as a mid-shipman. He later served our country with  
14 honor in the United States Navy during World War II; and

15           WHEREAS, After returning from the war, Mr. Abrams received his Bachelor's degree in  
16 agriculture from the University of Rhode Island. He married his wife, Joan, and together they  
17 purchased, and over the course of the next ten years, operated a poultry farm in North Kingstown;  
18 and

19           WHEREAS, A multi-talented man, Mr. Abrams became a marine biologist for RI Fish  
20 and Game Service until 1960 when he joined the Dressler family business, Colfax Packing, one

1 of the largest vegetable oil suppliers in the country. In 1999, he retired as Senior Vice President  
2 for Sales; and

3 WHEREAS, Coinciding with his years at Colfax, Mr. Abrams and his wife purchased the  
4 Florida House and transformed it into The 1661 Inn, and in 1974, acquired the Hotel Manisses.  
5 He later, guided the family through a number of business expansions which included purchasing  
6 The Oar restaurant and in 2015, the management of the Narragansett Inn. He reveled in working  
7 with his family and in the community, and added immeasurable joy and benefit to those around  
8 him; and

9 WHEREAS, In addition to his family, Mr. Abrams took great delight in gardening and  
10 his farm, which is the setting for one of only two zoos licensed for exotic animals in the state. He  
11 and his wife also enjoyed traveling, which resulted in their finding a winter home in Mal Pais,  
12 Costa Rica, which in turn resulted in his helping to bring electricity to the small town; and

13 WHEREAS, Justin Abrams led a full and glorious life. He was an avid sailor, former  
14 member of the East Greenwich Yacht Club, founding member of Temple Sinai, long-time  
15 member of Temple Beth-El, member of the Sons & Daughters of Ruth, a director of the Block  
16 Island Conservancy, a member of the American Legion Post #36, and a beloved and cherished  
17 friend to many; now, therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and  
19 Providence Plantations hereby expresses its deepest sympathies on the passing of Justin Abrams.  
20 "May his memory be a blessing"; 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 Rita and Steven Draper and Family, Mark and  
23 Sonya Abrams and Family, and Susan Abrams and Family.

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