

2016 -- H 7971

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING SINCERE CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF ROBERT J. HEALEY,
JR., ESQ.

Introduced By: Representatives Malik, Mattiello, DeSimone, Newberry, and Hearn

Date Introduced: March 22, 2016

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, It is with great sadness that this House of Representatives has learned of the
2 passing of Robert J. Healey, Jr., Esq., lawyer, entrepreneur, restaurateur, and the founder of
3 Rhode Island's Cool Moose Party; and

4 WHEREAS, Robert J. Healey was born in the City of Providence, the son of Robert and
5 Mary Healey, Sr. He grew up in the Town of Warren and was a graduate of Warren High School.
6 He continued his education, earning a Bachelor's Degree in English and Secondary Education
7 from Rhode Island College, a Master's Degree in Reading Education from Boston University, a
8 Juris Doctorate from the New England School of Law, and a Master's Degree in English
9 Literature from Northeastern University. In 1983, he began a PhD program at Columbia
10 University, but after completing the requirements, was unable to complete the process when his
11 dissertation supervisor passed away; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1982, Mr. Healey was elected to the Warren School Committee, where he
13 served as chairman until 1986. He also served as the secretary for the Bristol County Bar
14 Association at that time, and remained in that position for the rest of his life; and

15 WHEREAS, Robert Healey was an iconic political figure whose appearance and
16 irreverent persona captured the loyalty of the disenfranchised and disaffected. He once stated, "I
17 have a view of government in the way it was intended not in the way it exists": and

18 WHEREAS, In 1986, Mr. Healey ran for Governor as an Independent Candidate. In
19 1994, he founded the Cool Moose Party, serving as the chairman from 1994 to 1998. Also in

1 1994 and in 1998, he ran for the Office of Governor as the Cool Moose Party Candidate. In 2002,
2 2006, and 2010, he ran for the Office of Lieutenant Governor on the unconventional platform of
3 abolishing the office; and

4 WHEREAS, Robert Healey ran five times on the Cool Moose ticket, once as an
5 independent, and in 2014, he ran for Office of Governor, but due to unusual circumstances, he
6 became the Moderate Party candidate. In his 2014 campaign for governor, he appealed to a broad
7 political spectrum and garnered a remarkable 21 percent of the vote, while spending only \$35.31
8 on office supplies and 98 cents on postage; and

9 WHEREAS, Robert Healey was persuasive and effective. He was gifted with exceptional
10 clarity of purpose, and anecdotes about this remarkable man, who helped to transform our state
11 and shape the diverse structure of Rhode Island politics will long be reiterated and remembered;
12 now, therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
14 Providence Plantations hereby expresses our deepest sympathies on the passing of Robert J.
15 Healey, Jr.

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