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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

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

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF CHESTER "BUDDY" GEORGE

Introduced By: Representatives Medina, Fox, Williams, McCauley, and Ajello

Date Introduced: March 29, 2012

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, It is with great sadness that we have learned of the passing of Chester
2 "Buddy" George, a man who was deeply devoted to his family and community. Our thoughts and
3 hearts hold great empathy for his three children, Charlotte Holley, Harold Washington, and
4 Charles George, Jr., his sisters, Barbara George and Mary Perry, and his brother, Freddy, on their
5 tremendous loss; and

6 WHEREAS, Born in the shadow of St. John's Church on North Main Street in
7 Providence, Buddy spent his childhood on the city's East Side. While still a teenager, he enlisted
8 in the U.S. Army and served his country with honor during the Korean War; and

9 WHEREAS, Upon his return to Providence, Buddy settled in the city's South Side and
10 quickly became a fixture. His passion for jazz, his talent as a percussionist, and his interest in
11 sharing his love for African music prompted Buddy to organize musicians from around South
12 Providence to perform. Buddy George and his African Troupe delighted audiences throughout the
13 area beginning in the 1960s, and Buddy went on to organize a series of summer music
14 performances for the community in the 1970s. He also founded the Black Musicians Association
15 in the early 1980s. Buddy's talents were featured at the Newport Jazz Festival and in
16 performances that reached across our country's northern borders into Canada; and

17 WHEREAS, Buddy established the non-profit organization, the Fact Finding Committee,
18 to serve as a nexus for community organizing in Providence. He and his colleagues addressed
19 issues including tenants' rights and health care. Buddy's efforts resulted in the building of the
20 South Providence Health Center, which served for many years as the only clinic facility for many

1 residents; and

2 WHEREAS, Buddy was a wonderful father, brother, mentor, artist, and involved citizen
3 who enriched the lives of all who knew him and will be sadly missed; now, therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
5 Providence Plantations hereby expresses our deepest sympathy to the family of Chester “Buddy”
6 George; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
8 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Charlotte Holley, Harold Washington, and
9 Charles George, Jr.

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