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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXTENDING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF JAMES BARRETT ROSS,
JR.

Introduced By: Representative Teresa A. Tanzi

Date Introduced: December 14, 2020

Referred To: Placed on the House Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, It is with utmost sadness that this House has learned of the passing of James
2 B. Ross, Jr. Better known as "Jim", he was married to his high school sweetheart, Ann Penney
3 Ross for seventy years, and together they were the loving parents of James Ross III, Scott Ross,
4 Alison Hunt, Andrea Ames, Alan Ross, Dana Kenney, Betsy Zink, Randy Ross, Mary Ellen Ross,
5 Marjorie Vorhaben, and Wendy Schultz, and the very proud grandparents of thirty-one
6 grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Ross was born in Perrysburg, Ohio, the son of Marjorie and James
8 Ross, and the brother of the late Richard Ross. At a young age, he had spent myriad hours at the
9 local library which instilled him with a lifelong love for reading and knowledge; and

10 WHEREAS, During his high school years, Mr. Ross moved to Elmira, New York, where
11 he fortuitously met his future wife. He graduated from Harvard University with a degree in
12 mathematics, and earned the distinction of becoming the youngest actuary in the country at that
13 time; and

14 WHEREAS, After a long and distinguished career in the insurance industry, Mr. Ross
15 returned to school where he earned a Ph.D. in Finance and subsequently taught at the collegiate
16 level for several years. At the age of 80, he once again earned a unique distinction when he
17 became the oldest graduate of the University of Rhode Island, upon receiving a diploma for the
18 eighth and final time for a degree in Classical Studies; and

19 WHEREAS, For many years, Mr. Ross had been an active and integral part of the

1 Kingston Congregational Church as a devoted parishioner, and as a member of the choir and the
2 Finance Board; and

3 WHEREAS, In addition to his family and academic pursuits, Mr. Ross was an avid sports
4 fan, and enjoyed basketball, tennis, golfing, boating, swimming, musical concerts, fishing and
5 picnicking with his family; and

6 WHEREAS, James and Ann Ross enjoyed an enviable life together, filled with family,
7 travel, church, and hobbies, and the finest tribute to him would be a celebration of his wonderful
8 and blessed life. His hard work, generosity, sense of humor, and love of learning was an
9 inspiration to all and he will be dearly missed; now, therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
11 extends its deepest condolences on the passing of James Barrett Ross, Jr.; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
13 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Mrs. Ann Penney Ross and Family, and
14 Marjorie Vorhaben and Family.

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