

2020 -- H 8187

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF MR. STEVEN JAMES DRAPER

Introduced By: Representative Blake Anthony Filippi

Date Introduced: December 14, 2020

Referred To: Placed on the House Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Steven Draper passed away on his beloved Block Island on October 30,
2 2020. He was the devoted husband of Rita K. (Abrams) Draper; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Draper was the son of the late Rita and Jack Draper. Tragedy struck him
4 early in life when, at the age of five, his mother died in a house fire. He and his sister Laurie were
5 raised by their grandmother, the late Gertrude Foster. At an early age, Steven learned the
6 importance of hard work when he helped to support his grandmother and sister, beginning with
7 his paper route job at the age of nine; and

8 WHEREAS, For more than forty-five years, Mr. Draper lived on Block Island, first
9 working at Ballard's Beach Resort, then joining the Abrams' family business, Block Island
10 Resorts. Steve played a vital role in the successful operations of the 1661 Inn and the Oar
11 Restaurant, where he supervised construction projects and maintained the large physical plant. He
12 led by example and no job was beneath him, including, for example, lying on the floor of the
13 kitchen of the Oar repairing the dishwasher during a dinner-time rush; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Draper also utilized the degree he attained from Pace University by
15 managing the finances of the business. Also, for twenty-three years, he was an important part of
16 the Storm Trysail Club Block Island Race Week, which was headquartered at the Oar Restaurant;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Draper was very active in Block Island civic affairs. He served on the
19 Water Commission, the Sewer Commission, the Chamber of Commerce and the Block Island
20 Maritime Institute. He also served as a Reserve Police Officer on Block Island for many years.

1 Additionally, beginning in 1970, he served our nation with honor, integrity and distinction as a
2 member of the New York National Guard for eight years; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Draper loved spending his winters in Mal Pais, Costa Rica, where he
4 tended to his gardens, made many lifelong friends, and welcomed visits from his family and
5 friends; and

6 WHEREAS, In addition to his wife Rita, Mr. Draper leaves behind his sons Kyle Draper
7 and his wife, Terin, Seth Draper and Ross Draper. He also leaves behind his grandchildren
8 Camryn and Gavin, his sister Laurie Day and her husband, Chet, his brother-in-law Mark Abrams
9 and his wife, Sonya, and his sister-in-law Susan Kenyon, widow of the late Rick Abrams. He is
10 also survived by his nephews and nieces, and their families, Kelly Debrocky, Joe Day, Sam
11 Abrams, Jamie Day, Archie Abrams, Jeff Day, Stanley Abrams, Sydney Abrams, and Philip
12 Abrams; now, therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode hereby expresses
14 its deepest condolences on the passing of Mr. Steven James Draper; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
16 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Rita Draper and Family.

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