

2022 -- H 8199

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF GEORGE EDWARD
MCGAW

Introduced By: Representatives McGaw, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Filippi, Kennedy,
Fellela, Ackerman, Shallcross Smith, Ruggiero, and Henries

Date Introduced: May 03, 2022

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, It is with deepest sympathies that this House has learned of the passing of
2 George Edward McGaw of Portsmouth; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. McGaw was born and raised in Fall River, Massachusetts, the son of
4 George and Olive McGaw. He graduated from BMC Durfee High School and was a 1955
5 graduate of Fitchburg Teachers College (now known as Fitchburg University) where he attained a
6 Bachelor of Science degree in education with a specialization in industrial arts. While in college,
7 he played basketball, was named team captain, served as president of his fraternity, and most
8 importantly, met the love of his life, Carolese Burbage. They married in 1956; and

9 WHEREAS, After graduation, Mr. McGaw joined the United States Navy and trained to
10 be a pilot, specializing as a helicopter pilot for carrier landings and antisubmarine detection.
11 Overall, he served our nation with honor and distinction for ten years, five years in the navy and
12 five years in the Navy Reserves. He retired from the military with the rank of Lieutenant
13 Commander; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. McGaw's first job as a civilian was as a teacher in Fall River, then later
15 in Fairhaven, Massachusetts. When Portsmouth High School opened in 1963, he became part of
16 the initial staff and for the next twenty-seven years, until his retirement in 1990, he taught
17 industrial arts and made a positive impact on the lives of the students who were blessed to have
18 him as a teacher. He also served as the first athletic director of Portsmouth High School, and was
19 one of the inaugural honorees in the Portsmouth Athletic Hall of Fame in 2017; and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. McGaw was also a talented home builder who, while teaching, designed
2 and constructed the family home in The Hummocks. It became a revered place for his children,
3 grandchildren and great-grandchildren to spend time and enjoy recreational activities. Mr.
4 McGaw and his wife loved spending time on the water boating, swimming, and quahogging, and
5 later taking cruises, and spending 25 winters together in Florida; and

6 WHEREAS, In addition to his wife, Carolese, Mr. McGaw leaves behind his sons,
7 Michael McGaw, and James McGaw and his wife, the Honorable Michelle McGaw, Rhode Island
8 State Representative. Mr. McGaw was predeceased by his son, Christopher McGaw and also
9 leaves behind his grandchildren Meryl, Zachary, Kyle and his wife, Jerrica, Nicholas, Jake, and
10 Max, and his great-grandchildren Logan, Frances, Rowan and Ryland; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. McGaw was a kind, loving, honest and gentle soul who will be long-
12 remembered by his beloved family members and countless friends; now, therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
14 expresses its deepest condolences on the passing of George Edward McGaw; 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 Mrs. Carolese Burbage and Family.

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