

2024 -- H 8356

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE WILLIAM L.
DRAPEAU

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Kazarian, Chippendale,
Kennedy, Shallcross Smith, Tanzi, Cortvriend, Solomon, and Ajello
Date Introduced: June 11, 2024

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, It is with deep sadness that this House has learned of the passing of the
2 Honorable William L. Drapeau of East Providence. He was the beloved husband of Elaine
3 Drapeau for 64 years, and a distinguished member of the Rhode Island House of Representatives
4 for ten years; and

5 WHEREAS, William Drapeau was born in Seekonk, the son of the late Albert and Grace
6 Drapeau. He was one of the original members of the pre-World War II Seekonk Boys Club. He
7 played football for Seekonk Jr. High School's first tackle football team, and later graduated from
8 East Providence High School, where he played on the football and wrestling teams, and was a
9 member of the 1947 Rhode Island High School Championship Wrestling Team; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Drapeau proceeded to serve our nation with honor in the United States
11 Army from 1951 to 1953. He attended Basic Training at Fort Hood in Texas, and graduated from
12 the Military Police Academy at Camp Gordon in Georgia. He then served in Germany during the
13 "Cold War" between the Russian-led Communist Bloc and the United States led European NATO
14 democracies; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Drapeau graduated from Johnson & Wales and also took classes at
16 Providence College. He had a long and distinguished professional career first as a mechanical
17 engineer for Federal Products in Providence and later for the State of Rhode Island Treasury
18 Department; and

19 WHEREAS, In 1974, Mr. Drapeau was elected to the Rhode Island House of

1 Representatives and served the Rumford area in the House with distinction, integrity and passion
2 for ten years. He also served on the Rhode Island Democratic State Committee for twelve years
3 and its Board of Directors for seven years. Additionally, he was a lifetime member of the Irish
4 Hibernian Club in Newport; and

5 WHEREAS, In his free time, Mr. Drapeau enjoyed travelling with his wife, visiting most
6 of the countries in Europe. They especially enjoyed their trips to Sicily and a special eighteen day
7 trip they took to Egypt to see the pyramids, which included a ten-day Nile River Cruise; and

8 WHEREAS, In addition to his wife, Elaine, he leaves behind his daughter, Deborah
9 Anania and her husband, David, and his daughter Donna Drapeau, who had a long and
10 distinguished career as an employee of the Rhode Island General Assembly. Mr. Drapeau was the
11 father of the late Diane Drapeau and the late Edward Drapeau, who was the husband of Kathleen
12 Drapeau. He is also survived by his grandchildren, David Anania and his wife, Lindsey, Andrew
13 Anania, Zackary, Danielle, Ethan, Eric, and Hailey Drapeau, and a great-granddaughter, Audrey
14 Anania and also leaves behind many nieces and nephews. He was the brother of the late Norman,
15 Daniel, Albert, and James Drapeau; now, therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
17 expresses its condolences on the passing of the Honorable William L. Drapeau; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
19 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mrs. Elaine Drapeau and Family.

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