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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF RETIRED RHODE ISLAND
SUPREME COURT CHIEF JUSTICE JOSEPH R. WEISBERGER

Introduced By: Senators Paiva Weed, McCaffrey, Conley, Walaska, and Algieri

Date Introduced: January 02, 2013

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, It is with deep sadness and regret that this Senate has learned of the passing
2 of The Honorable Joseph R. Weisberger, retired Chief Justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court
3 and a highly respected adjudicator who dedicated fifty-six years of service to the citizens and
4 Judiciary of Rhode Island; and

5 WHEREAS, A devoted family man, Chief Justice Weisberger was the husband of sixty
6 years to Sylvia Weisberger, and together the couple had raised three children, J. Robert
7 Weisberger, Jr., Judith Greene, and the late Paula W. Wroblewski. He was the beloved
8 grandfather of Joseph Weisberger, III, Justin Weisberger, Anya Wroblewski, and Robert
9 Wroblewski, Jr., and is also survived by his daughter-in-law, Gail Weisberger, and his son-in-
10 law, Gordon Greene, II; and

11 WHEREAS, Born in Providence, a son of the late Samuel and Ann Elizabeth Weisberger,
12 Chief Justice Weisberger had made his home in Riverside for 56 years. In 1941, while an
13 undergraduate at Brown University, Chief Justice Weisberger interrupted his studies and joined
14 the United States Navy, where he served in the Pacific. He returned stateside and continued his
15 education, earning degrees from Brown University and Harvard Law School; and

16 WHEREAS, At the age of thirty-five, after serving briefly as a Rhode Island State
17 Senator, Chief Justice Weisberger was appointed to the Rhode Island Judiciary in 1956. With
18 dedication and amazing legal acumen, he rose from the Superior Court to the high court. He
19 became an Associate Justice in 1978 and was named acting Chief Justice of the Rhode Island

1 Supreme Court in 1993. In 1995, he was permanently appointed to the position of Chief Justice
2 of the Rhode Island Supreme Court, which he held until his retirement at the age of 80; and

3 WHEREAS, Chief Justice Weisberger possessed a brilliant mind and a fair and
4 magnanimous spirit. He had the love of his family and friends, earned the admiration of his
5 peers, and was eminently worthy of the gratitude of all Rhode Islanders. He will be profoundly
6 missed by those who had the good fortune to be a part of his vital and fulfilling life; now,
7 therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
9 hereby expresses our deepest sympathies to his wife, Sylvia, and the entire Weisberger family on
10 the passing of The Honorable Chief Justice Weisberger. He will forever be remembered as a
11 highly respected and admired judge who presided with fairness and justice, and served the people
12 of the State of Rhode Island with integrity and excellence; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he is hereby authorized and directed to
14 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Mrs. Sylvia Weisberger and Family.

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