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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE MOST REVEREND, BISHOP
ROBERT E. MULVEE

Introduced By: Senators McCaffrey, Ruggerio, Goodwin, Algieri, and Ciccone

Date Introduced: January 09, 2019

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, The Most Reverend Robert E. Mulvee, the beloved Bishop of the Diocese of
2 Providence, from 1997 to 2005, passed away on December 28, 2018 at the St. Antoine Residence;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Bishop Mulvee was originally from Boston. He studied for the priesthood at
5 seminaries in Connecticut, Canada and Belgium. Upon ordination, he was assigned to serve the
6 Diocese of Manchester, New Hampshire, in 1957. He served at a number of parishes in New
7 Hampshire before returning to Europe for graduate studies. While in Europe, he earned a
8 Doctorate in Canon Law at the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome, and a Master's degree in
9 religious education from the University of Louvain in Belgium in 1964. Shortly thereafter, he
10 returned to New Hampshire and was named Assistant Chancellor of the New Hampshire Diocese;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, In 1966, Bishop Mulvee was named a Papal Chamberlain with the title of
13 Monsignor by Pope Paul VI. He was later named the First Auxiliary Bishop of Manchester in
14 1977 and the seventh Bishop of Wilmington, Delaware, in 1985; and

15 WHEREAS, Bishop Mulvee came to Providence in 1995, when he was named coadjutor
16 Bishop of the Diocese of Providence. He became the seventh Bishop of Providence in June of
17 1997, and served on numerous important national and regional boards and committees; and

18 WHEREAS, In his heart, Bishop Mulvee was a parish Priest who believed in the
19 importance of listening to people, especially those who were hurting, including some who were

1 hurt by the Church. Former Governor Carcieri remembered Bishop Mulvee as being someone he
2 "had great respect and admiration for", and for being "very down to earth, someone you could
3 talk to." Bishop Mulvee's gentle demeanor and abundance of compassion touched the hearts and
4 lives of countless Rhode Islanders. In the words of Bishop Tobin, the current Bishop of
5 Providence, Bishop Mulvee was "a good and gentle shepherd of God's people," and "was a
6 faithful follower of Christ who served the Church with dignity and compassion"; now, therefore
7 be it

8 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
9 hereby expresses its deepest condolences on the passing of the Most Reverend Bishop Robert E.
10 Mulvee; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
12 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Bishop Thomas Tobin and the Diocese of
13 Providence.

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