

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019**

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**SENATE RESOLUTION**

**EXPRESSING DEEPEST SYMPATHY ON THE PASSING OF RUDOLPH J. LEGENZA**

Introduced By: Senator Elizabeth A. Crowley

Date Introduced: January 31, 2019

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1           WHEREAS, It is with great sadness that this Senate has learned of the passing of  
2 Rudolph "Rudy" J. Legenza, Retired Commander of the Central Falls Police Department; and

3           WHEREAS, Born in Pawtucket, Rudy Legenza was a son of Helen and the late Rudolph  
4 Legenza, and the brother of Kathleen Tinkham, Michael Legenza and his wife, Linda, and  
5 William Legenza and his wife, Carolyn. He graduated from Central Falls High School and  
6 received his Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Salve Regina University. He was a  
7 lifelong resident of Central Falls; and

8           WHEREAS, Mr. Legenza served our country with honor and distinction in the United  
9 States Air Force as a Sergeant during the Vietnam War; and

10           WHEREAS, In September of 1969, Mr. Legenza was appointed to the Central Falls  
11 Police Department. He retired after thirty years of service as not only a Commander but also a  
12 legend; and

13           WHEREAS, Mr. Legenza's notoriety was a result of an illustrious career that began with  
14 walking a beat, advanced when he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in charge of Detectives  
15 in the early 1980s, and included helping to solve the murder of his friend, and assisting with  
16 uncovering and exposing an international cocaine ring with deep ties to the City. He worked with  
17 law enforcement agencies including Interpol, Canadian Mounties, FBI, INS and DEA to rid the  
18 city of local cocaine operations that were estimated at \$100 million per year; and

19           WHEREAS, The tale of Mr. Legenza's and his partner, Mike White's actions were aired  
20 on television and published in numerous articles including Rolling Stones Magazine, The New

1 York Times, and Reader's Digest, as well as all the local newspapers; and

2 WHEREAS, Rudy Legenza faced many challenges during the course of his career but  
3 took the most pride in his family and friends. He was an avid outdoorsman and fisherman who  
4 traveled internationally on his expeditions; and

5 WHEREAS, In addition to his mother and siblings, Mr. Legenza is survived by his nieces  
6 Rebecca, Tiffany, Alissa, Kerri and nephew Michael as well as his great-niece Amber and his  
7 beloved "Wingmen" great-nephews Jordan and Damien. He will be dearly missed by all who  
8 shared his life; now, therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
10 hereby extends deepest sympathies on the passing of Rudolph J. Legenza; 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 Helen Legenza and Family.

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