

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE
PASSING OF RAYMOND MORSE DURFEE

Introduced By: Senators Gallo, Miller, and Lanzi

Date Introduced: February 15, 2011

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, It is with profound sadness and regret that this Senate has learned of the
2 passing of Raymond “Ray” Durfee, a lifelong resident of the City of Cranston, a beloved
3 husband and father, and a former member of the Rhode Island House of Representatives and the
4 Rhode Island Senate; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Durfee was a graduate of Cranston High School and attained his
6 Bachelor's degree in economics from Brown University. With honor and distinction, he served in
7 the United States Navy seeing active duty during WWII and as the first officer called back for
8 service during the Korean Conflict. The ship on which he was stationed during WWII had landed
9 Marines on Iwo Jima; and

10 WHEREAS, With the exception of college and his military service, Mr. Durfee worked at
11 the family's business. He was the second-generation owner and proprietor of Durfee's Hardware,
12 where he had begun helping out at the store around the age of seven. Embracing the philosophy
13 of “enlightened self-interest,” meaning that satisfying customers builds loyalty, Durfee's
14 Hardware has been a fixture in Cranston for more than eighty years; and

15 WHEREAS, A gregarious and outspoken man, Mr. Durfee was actively involved in
16 community affairs through his association with the Cranston Historical Society, and for more than
17 five decades as a Sunday School teacher and communicant of St. David's Episcopal Church in
18 Cranston; and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Durfee also loved local and state politics and always enjoyed a rousing

1 discussion on the social, philosophical, or political topic of the day. Taking his commitment and
2 convictions to a higher level, Mr. Durfee was successfully elected to serve the people of Cranston
3 as a Representative for eight years and as a Senator for eight years in the Rhode Island General
4 Assembly. He was committed to his constituency and was a tireless advocate for small business;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Our thoughts and hearts hold great empathy and sorrow for the family of
7 Raymond Durfee. He was the son of the late Clarence and Gertrude Durfee, husband of the late
8 Elizabeth Durfee, and the loving father of Peter Durfee and his wife, Sheila, Paul Durfee and his
9 wife, Jeanne, and David Durfee and his wife, Patricia. He was also the beloved grandfather of
10 nine grandchildren, Thomas, Ryan, Sarah, Kevin, Kara, Kyle, Meghan, Patrick, and Elizabeth;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Ray Durfee enriched the lives of all who knew him and he will be dearly
13 missed in the community; now, therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
15 hereby expresses its deepest sympathies to the entire Durfee Family on the passing of Raymond
16 Morse Durfee; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
18 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Peter Durfee and Family, Paul Durfee and
19 Family, and David Durfee and Family.

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