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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF REVEREND FATHER MATTHEW
JEREMY BAKER

Introduced By: Senators Raptakis, Lombardi, Gallo, Miller, and Lynch

Date Introduced: March 19, 2015

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, With heavy hearts, we express our condolences to the Baker family on the
2 tragic passing of Father Matthew Jeremy Baker, who passed away at the age of thirty-seven from
3 an automobile accident on March 1, 2015. He was the loving husband of L. Katherine Baker and
4 the devoted father of Isaac, Elias, George, Eleftheria, Cyril, and Matthew, Jr.; and

5 WHEREAS, Father Baker was born in Warwick, Rhode Island, son of Evelyn Baker and
6 the late Howard Baker. Educated in the Cranston public schools, Father Baker, in preparation for
7 the Priesthood, attended St. Tikhon's Orthodox Seminary in South Canaan, Pennsylvania, where
8 he earned a Master of Divinity degree, and the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology
9 in Brookline, Massachusetts, where he earned a Master of Arts degree. Since 2010, he was
10 enrolled as a doctoral student at Fordham University, studying systemic theology; and

11 WHEREAS, Father Baker was ordained to the diaconate on January 17, 2015, by his
12 Grace, Bishop Andonios, Chancellor of the Greek Archdiocese of America, at the chapel of St.
13 Michael's Home in Yonkers, New York. Shortly thereafter, he received the grace of priestly
14 ordination on January 19, 2015, from His Eminence, Metropolitan Methodios of Boston at the
15 Annunciation Parish in Cranston, Rhode Island. Father Baker had been serving at various
16 parishes throughout New England over the past year. He had been recently assigned to serve at
17 the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Norwich, Connecticut; and

18 WHEREAS, Father Baker was a brilliant young scholar who had written numerous
19 highly regarded and well-received essays and articles on a variety of theological and

1 philosophical topics. More importantly, he was an energetic and passionate man who cared
2 deeply about the spiritual and physical well-being of others. His untimely passing creates a void
3 that will be impossible to fill. He will be sorely missed by his family, friends and colleagues;
4 now, therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
6 hereby expresses its condolences to the Baker family on the passing of Father Matthew Jeremy
7 Baker; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
9 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to L. Katherine Baker.

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