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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 HONORABLE B. MITCHELL
SIMPSON, III

Introduced By: Senator Dawn M. Euer

Date Introduced: May 21, 2019

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, The Honorable B. Mitchell “Tony” Simpson, III, passed away on May 9,
2 2019, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He was the beloved husband of Wilma Simpson for fifty-one
3 years; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Simpson was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to Marshall and B.
5 Mitchell Simpson, II. He graduated with honors from Colgate University with a Bachelor’s
6 degree and, shortly thereafter, attained a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania; and

7 WHEREAS, Upon graduation, Mr. Simpson joined the United States Navy where he
8 served our nation with honor and distinction for twenty years aboard five ships, including the
9 USS Franklin D. Roosevelt, and the USS Perry. During his distinguished service, Mr. Simpson
10 earned three degrees from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, a
11 Master in Arts degree (MA), a Masters in Law and Diplomacy degree (MALD), and a Ph.D. He
12 was a highly esteemed member of the faculty of the United States Naval War College between
13 1970 and 1977, and retired from active duty as a Lieutenant Commander; and

14 WHEREAS, Upon his retirement from the United States Navy, Mr. Simpson remained at
15 the Naval War College for three years as an Advanced Research Scholar and wrote a well-
16 received and highly-regarded biography of United States Admiral Harold R. Stark. He
17 subsequently returned to his law practice and furthered his academic and historical research and
18 studies. Throughout his exemplary professional and scholarly career, he wrote several books and
19 published numerous articles on topics as diverse as naval strategy, history and law. In 1996, he

1 was appointed Professor at the Roger Williams University School of Law; and

2 WHEREAS, Mr. Simpson also had a distinguished public service career. From 1982 to
3 1986, he was the Assistant Town Solicitor for the Town of Middletown, and from 1989 to 1992,
4 he was the Assistant Minority Counsel for the Rhode Island House of Representatives. He was
5 elected to the Newport City Council in 1988, and for eight years, between 1988 and 1996, he
6 served the City's third Ward with honor, integrity and tireless service. Since 1986, he also served
7 as Corporation Counsel and Senior Warden for Trinity Church in Newport, as a Trustee and
8 Trustee Emeritus of the Pennfield School, and was the Co-Founder of the Fiesta Italiana; and

9 WHEREAS, In addition to his wife, Mr. Simpson leaves behind his daughters, Fiona and
10 Isla, his sons-in-law Robert and Steven, and his three grandchildren; and

11 WHEREAS, The Honorable B. Mitchell Simpson, III, was a patriot, a scholar and a
12 devoted family man. He will forever be remembered for his public service to our nation, the State
13 of Rhode Island and the citizens of Newport, and for his scholarship and impeccable writing
14 skills, his distinguished teaching and legal career, and, most importantly, the love and devotion he
15 provided to his family as a son, husband, father, and grandfather. He will be sorely missed but
16 will live on forever in the memory of all who knew him and loved him; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
18 hereby expresses its condolences to the Simpson Family on the passing of the Honorable B.
19 Mitchell Simpson, III; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
21 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mrs. Wilma M. Simpson.

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