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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF FRANK J.
MONTANARO, SR.

Introduced By: Senators Ruggerio, McCaffrey, Goodwin, Gallo, and Lombardi

Date Introduced: September 19, 2017

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, It is with great sadness that this Senate mourns the passing of Frank J.
2 Montanaro, Sr., a highly-respected and widely-admired local and national labor leader; and

3 WHEREAS, A devoted family man, Mr. Montanaro was the cherished husband of sixty
4 years to Madeline Montanaro, the beloved father of Laurie Montanaro, our friend and colleague,
5 Frank A. Montanaro and his wife, Joy, Gina Montanaro Eckman and her husband, Michael, and
6 Diana Montanaro, and the very proud grandfather of Alexandria, Frank J., Michael, Jake, Karissa
7 Montanaro, and Kelsy Lawton; and

8 WHEREAS, A native of Cranston's Knightsville neighborhood, Mr. Montanaro was a
9 son of the late Frank A. and Matilda Montanaro, and the brother of Ann O'Connell, William
10 Montanaro, Angela DiRaimo, and the late Helen Harrison. He served our country with honor in
11 the United States Air Force during the Korean War; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Montanaro began working as a milkman on Federal Hill before joining
13 the Cranston Fire Department in 1959. While serving as a firefighter, he became active in the
14 union and was elected Vice President of Local 1363, the International Association of Fire
15 Fighters. In 1964, he was named President, a post he held for the next seventeen years; and

16 WHEREAS, Earning the moniker "lion of labor", Mr. Montanaro was appointed as a
17 member of the Rhode Island AFL-CIO Executive Board and later as a member of the Rhode
18 Island AFL-CIO Executive Committee. In 1992, he was elected President, and also served as a
19 General Board Member of the National AFL-CIO; and

1 WHEREAS, Memories of this remarkable man, who helped to transform our state, and
2 unite and shape organized labor, include his service as President of the Rhode Island State
3 Association of Fire Fighters, a member of the state Labor Relations Board ultimately serving as
4 Chair, and a member of the Democratic National Committee; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Montanaro's work has extended well beyond his efforts with the labor
6 movement. In 1986, he was elected as a delegate to the Rhode Island Constitutional Convention
7 from District 24, and has been an active member of the Rhode Island Democratic State
8 Committee, the Board of Directors of United Way of Rhode Island, Chairman of the Board of
9 Trustees for the Institute for Labor Studies and Research, Chairman of Blue Cross Blue Shield of
10 Rhode Island, and was honored with the Community Humanitarian Award from the DaVinci
11 Center in 2006; and

12 WHEREAS, Most recently, Mr. Montanaro served as one of the four Rhode Island
13 electors who cast a vote for President when the Electoral College met on Dec. 19, 2016, at the
14 State House; and

15 WHEREAS, Frank Montanaro, Sr. did not travel the path of least resistance, and in doing
16 so, left the Ocean State a far better place because of his life's endeavors. His commitment and
17 advocacy for working families improved the lives of many Rhode Islanders and set a standard for
18 excellence in public service that is an inspiration to us all; now, therefore be

19 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
20 hereby expresses deepest sympathies on the passing of Frank J. Montanaro, Sr.; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
22 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Mrs. Madeline Montanaro, and Mr. Frank
23 Montanaro, Jr., and Family.

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