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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING PROFOUND SYMPATHY ON THE PASSING OF
REV. JOSEPH LUKE LENNON

Introduced By: Senator Maryellen Goodwin

Date Introduced: June 23, 2011

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, It is with great sadness that this Senate has learned of the passing of Rev.
2 Joseph Luke Lennon, a revered and beloved member of the Dominican Friars of the Eastern
3 Province of St. Joseph and of the Dominican Community at Providence College; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Providence, a son of the late John and Marjorie Charlotte Lennon,
5 Reverend Lennon graduated from LaSalle Academy and Providence College before entering the
6 Dominican novitiate at St. Rose Priory. He studied for two years at St. Joseph Priory and earned
7 his bachelor's and licentiate degrees in sacred theology from the College of the Immaculate
8 Conception/Dominican House of Studies; and

9 WHEREAS, Rev. Lennon was ordained to the holy priesthood on June 5th of 1947, by the
10 Most Rev. Archbishop Amleto Cicognani, D.D. He continued his education, earning an M.A. in
11 psychology from the Catholic University of America and his Ph.D. in education from the
12 University of Notre Dame. In addition, he earned an honorary M.A. degree from Providence
13 College, Doctor of Letters degrees from Bradford Durfee College of Technology and
14 Southeastern Massachusetts University, and a Doctor of Humane Letters from Roger Williams
15 College; and

16 WHEREAS, In 1949, Rev. Lennon joined the faculty at Providence College. He taught
17 education, theology, and philosophy, and held a myriad of administrative positions until his
18 retirement in 1968; and

19 WHEREAS, In addition to his responsibilities at Providence College, Rev. Lennon

1 served on numerous state education and health committees. He also was a member of the Boards
2 of Rhode Island Hospital and Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Rhode Island, and an arbitrator for the
3 Rhode Island Department of Labor; and

4 WHEREAS, For many years, Reverend Lennon served as the diocesan representative to
5 Italian speaking civic-religious organizations. He also received numerous honors and awards
6 from civic organizations, such as Big Brothers of Rhode Island, and was named “Man of the
7 Year” by the Verrazzano Day Committee; and

8 WHEREAS, Reverend Lennon was widely published. He wrote books on education and
9 sociology, and articles, reprints, book reviews, commentaries, and letters to the editor. He also
10 served as the op-ed writer for the Providence Visitor/Rhode Island Catholic and was a frequent
11 public speaker and television and radio personality; and

12 WHEREAS, In addition to his teaching, writing, and community work, Rev. Lennon was
13 an avid golfer and three-time winner of the Rhode Island State Seniors’ Gold Association
14 Championship. He is survived by his nieces Marjorie Reidy, Judith Cafferty, Jane McClanaghan,
15 Barbara McFarland, and Kathy Lennon, and his nephews Ralph, Joseph, and Robert Lennon; and

16 WHEREAS, Reverend Lennon lived his life vigorously, educating and reaching out to
17 those in need of his wisdom and guidance. He was a good soul who left this world a far better
18 place because of his life’s work and he was an inspiration to us all; now, therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
20 hereby expresses our deepest sympathies on the passing of Rev. Joseph Luke Lennon, O.P. He
21 will forever be remembered as an educator, a gifted orator and writer, and a community and
22 spiritual leader; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
24 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Providence College Office of Institutional
25 Advancement in Providence, Rhode Island.

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