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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

S E N A T E R E S O L U T I O N

**EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO THE WARDWELL FAMILY ON THE PASSING OF
CHIEF PETTY OFFICER GEORGE ARTHUR WARDWELL, USN RET.**

Introduced By: Senator Louis P. DiPalma

Date Introduced: January 12, 2016

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, George Arthur Wardwell was born on June 1, 1942, in Bath, Maine, and
2 was a 1960 graduate of Walter Gardner High School in Bucksport, Maine. He began his
3 distinguished thirty-two year military career in January of 1961 when he enlisted in the United
4 States Navy. During his four years of active duty, he was assigned to the USS Canberra, serving
5 in both the Mediterranean Sea and in Cuba during the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis. He later served
6 on the USS Bridget during its tenure in the Gulf of Tonkin, Vietnam; and

7 WHEREAS, Chief Petty Officer Wardwell transferred to the Naval Reserve after
8 completing active duty status, and served our nation for twenty-eight more years with honor and
9 distinction, on numerous ships including the USS Tills, USS Holder, USS Edson, USS Valdez
10 and the USS Falcon. He retired after thirty-two years of service with the rank of Radioman Chief
11 Petty Officer. He also had an exemplary forty year career with the US Civil Service as a
12 Telecommunications Specialist at the Naval Communications Station in Newport, Rhode Island,
13 and received numerous civilian awards; and

14 WHEREAS, During his meritorious military career, Chief Petty Officer Wardwell
15 received numerous medals and commendations including, the Navy Achievement Medal, the
16 Good Conduct Medal, the Naval Reserve Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Expeditionary
17 Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (3 Stars),
18 the Vietnam Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal (Gold Hourglass), and the Military
19 Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal. He was also authorized to wear the Navy "E" Ribbon, the

1 Meritorious Unit Commendation Medal, the Naval Reserve Sea Service Ribbon, and the Navy
2 and Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbon; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Wardwell was a devoted supporter of numerous military and veterans
4 causes. He was Past President, BMCM Edmund Couto Chapter, of the Naval Reserve
5 Association, Past President, Chapter 79, of the Retired Enlisted Association, Commander, Post
6 18, of the American Legion, Portsmouth, Rhode Island, Second County Commander of the
7 American Legion, Department of Rhode Island, and was a member of the VFW Post 4487. Mr.
8 Wardwell was also a proud member and Past Council President, Newport County Council, Navy
9 League of the United States with additional terms as Area President, Southern New England,
10 Region President, New England, and National Vice-president. In addition, he was named the
11 Veteran of the Year in 2012 by the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Middletown, Rhode Island; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Wardwell was an enthusiastic supporter of the Young Sea Cadets. He
13 marched in local parades on Memorial Day in formation with the three Naval Sea Cadet Corps
14 Divisions sponsored by the Newport County Council, Navy League of the United States. In 2014,
15 he organized a contingent of Sea Cadets to march in the Bristol Fourth of July Parade and was a
16 passionate supporter of the Navy League. He also served them as Chair of the Awards
17 Committee, which conducts their annual ceremonies; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Wardwell also devoted much of his private time in support of the
19 Aquidneck Land Trust, the Fort Adams Trust, the National Association of Active and Retired
20 Federal Employees, and the Council for International Visitors in Newport, Rhode Island; and

21 WHEREAS, Active in the community, George Wardwell is survived by his devoted wife,
22 Edna Wardwell, his sister Diane James and her husband, Arthur, his two children, Michael P.
23 Wardwell and Shannon Fuentes, three step-children, Jason Roach, George Roach, and Claudia
24 McPherson, and eight grandchildren, Tiphannie and Myranda Fuentes, Joshua, Julia and Ryan
25 Simmons, and Sean McPherson, Lindsay Roach and Alysyan McGowan-Roach. George was
26 predeceased by his father, Houston, and mother, Phyllis Wardwell, and his brother, Stephen Paul
27 Wardwell; now, therefore be it

28 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
29 hereby expresses its condolences to the Wardwell Family on the passing of George A. Wardwell;
30 and be it further

31 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
32 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mrs. Edna Wardwell.

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