

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING OUR CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF MIEP GIES

Introduced By: Senators C Levesque, and P Fogarty

Date Introduced: January 20, 2010

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1           WHEREAS, It is with great sadness that we have learned of the passing of Miep Gies,  
2 one of the Dutch citizens who hid and sustained Anne Frank and her family for more than two  
3 years in an Amsterdam attic and later helped save the diary of Anne Frank. She was the beloved  
4 wife of the late Jan Gies, whom she married on July 28, 1941, after she refused to join a Nazi  
5 women's association and was threatened with deportation back to Austria, beloved mother to one  
6 son, Paul, and grandmother of three; and

7           WHEREAS, Miep Gies was born on February 15, 1909, as Hermine Santruschitz into a  
8 German Roman Catholic family in Vienna, and was transported to Leiden from Vienna in  
9 December 1920 to escape the food shortages prevailing in Austria after World War I. In 1922,  
10 she moved with her foster family to Amsterdam. The family with whom she lived gave her the  
11 nickname Miep and later adopted her; and

12           WHEREAS, In 1933, she met Otto Frank when she applied for the post of temporary  
13 secretary in his spice company, Opekta. She was hired by Otto Frank and put in charge of the  
14 complaint desk; and

15           WHEREAS, Miep and her confederates took on great personal risk when they secreted  
16 away the Frank family in an unused room in the spice company's office building. Even after the  
17 Gestapo arrested the Frank family, Miep tried, unsuccessfully, to secure their release; and

18           WHEREAS, She was gratified to learn that while Anne had invented pseudonyms for  
19 everyone else mentioned in the diary, Miep's name was unchanged; and

20           WHEREAS, For the rest of her life, Miep Gies devoted herself to sustaining Anne

1 Frank's legacy, answering letters from all over the world. In 1987, she published a book, *Anne*  
2 *Frank Remembered*. In it she observed: "I am not a hero. I stand at the end of the long, long line  
3 of good Dutch people who did what I did and more – much more – during those dark and terrible  
4 times years ago, but always like yesterday in the heart of those of us who bear witness."; and

5 WHEREAS, She was decorated by Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands for her heroism and  
6 dedication and the Israeli Holocaust museum Yad Vashem bestowed on her the title of  
7 "Righteous Gentile." She was also honored by the German government; now, therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
9 hereby expresses our deepest sympathy to the entire Gies family on the passing of Miep Gies. She  
10 enriched the lives of all who knew her and will be dearly missed; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to  
12 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Gies Family.

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