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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING PROFOUND SYMPATHY ON THE PASSING OF EMILIE KIGGINS

Introduced By: Senator Maryellen Goodwin

Date Introduced: March 25, 2010

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, It is with deep sadness that this Senate has learned of the passing of
2 Emilie Kiggins, beloved wife of the late Austin Kiggins, and the devoted mother of our
3 friend and colleague The Honorable Hanna Gallo and her husband, Russell Gallo, and
4 Karen Yakavonis and her husband, Dr. Vincent Yakavonis; and

5 WHEREAS, Born to the late Emil and Louise Kaufmann in the small German
6 village of Johannesburg, Emilie Kiggins was an only child. Her family lived in a castle
7 overlooking a vineyard, situated along the Rhine River by the Lorelei. Life for the young
8 Emilie was easy and beautiful, but everything soon changed as World War II began; and

9 WHEREAS, During most of her teenage years, Emilie's life was spent in the
10 camps where her family had been forced to move, and although life was difficult,
11 Emilie's spirit remained resilient and joyful. She learned self-reliance and found
12 happiness in life's simple pleasures; and

13 WHEREAS, After the war, Emilie emigrated from Germany. Alone but unafraid,
14 Emilie's adventures on her way to the United States included watching the coronation of
15 Queen Elizabeth in England and visiting many of Europe's cities and sites; and

16 WHEREAS, Once arriving on America's shore, Emilie took a position as an au
17 pair in New York. She was fond of telling how Frank Sinatra would often call the family
18 she was working for on the phone just to hear her accent; and

1 WHEREAS, Eventually Emilie made her way to Colorado Springs where she met
2 and married the love of her life, her husband Austin. Emilie’s loving personality created
3 and nurtured a marriage that flourished and a home that was warm and welcoming. She
4 doted on her family, first her husband, and soon thereafter, their two daughters, Hanna
5 and Karen, and eventually as “Omi” to Julie and Laura, Mark Yakavonis, and the late
6 John Gallo; and

7 WHEREAS, Between the births of their two children, the family moved to Rhode
8 Island, settling in Garden City, Cranston, where Emilie became a well-known “social
9 butterfly” throughout the community. In 1987, she lost her beloved “Owstin,” but with
10 her daughters and sons-in-law by her side and her grandchildren to fill her heart, she
11 moved on; and

12 WHEREAS, In addition to her family life, Emilie drew much of her strength and
13 comfort from her strong devotion to the Catholic faith and the pride she had for her
14 German heritage. She enjoyed watching the Red Sox and was the official family
15 scorekeeper, although she was occasionally known to extol the belief that “baseball
16 wasn’t a real sport like soccer”; and

17 WHEREAS, Emilie Kiggins was the heart and soul of her family. Her
18 kindheartedness, smile, and graciousness will forever be indelibly imprinted on the lives
19 and in the cherished memories of her entire family. She enriched all who had the good
20 fortune to have known her and she will be dearly missed; now, therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence
22 Plantations hereby expresses our deepest sympathies on the passing of Emilie Kiggins,
23 and in her native tongue “Auf wiedersehen, als jetzt Emmy, bis wir wiedersehen”; and

24 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and
25 directed to transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable Hanna Gallo,
26 Russell Gallo, and Family, and Karen and Dr. Vincent Yakavonis and Family.

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