

2010 -- S 2902

LC02715

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING PROFOUND SYMPATHY ON THE PASSING OF ALTHEA MERCER
MANSOLILLO

Introduced By: Senators Gallo, and Ruggerio

Date Introduced: May 20, 2010

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, It is with great sadness that this Senate has learned of the passing of Althea
2 Mercer Mansolillo, beloved wife of the late Raymond Mansolillo and a former professional
3 marathon swimmer; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Somerset to the late John and Mabel Mercer, Althea was the
5 devoted mother of Raymond Mansolillo, II, and his wife, Maria, Faith Mansolillo Orabona and
6 husband, John, and the late John Joseph Mansolillo. She was the devoted grandmother of
7 Raymond and Kimberly; and

8 WHEREAS, Mrs. Mansolillo's extended family included her brothers and sisters, Hope
9 Mercer Hall, Faith Peckham, Robert Mercer, Carlton Mercer, and the late Ruth Ouilette, Lois,
10 John, Marilyn, and Beverly Mercer; and

11 WHEREAS, Throughout her life, Mrs. Mansolillo had been an avid devotee of
12 swimming. In her youth, Mrs. Mansolillo competed as a professional marathon swimmer and
13 was a member of the famous Swimming Mercers. She had won the Block Island Swim, the
14 Battery to Coney Island Swim, the Fall River City Length Swim, and had placed sixth in the
15 World Professional Long Distance Swim. In 1997, she was inducted into the Rhode Island
16 Aquatics Hall of Fame at Brown University; and

17 WHEREAS, Over the years, Mrs. Mansolillo shared her love of swimming with others
18 in a variety of ways. She instilled in her children the joy and discipline that swimming could
19 bring to their lives. She was a swimming instructor for the Providence school system for twenty-

1 six years, and in 1972, she was honored by traveling to California as the swimming coach
2 representing Rhode Island at the National Special Olympics. She was also the first Water Safety
3 Instructor Trainer for the handicapped at the Red Cross National Aquatic School; and

4 WHEREAS, Althea was also a pioneer for women. She was the first woman to become a
5 lifeguard for the State of Rhode Island. She had worked at Eastons Beach in Newport and Teddy
6 Bear Beach in Portsmouth, and had received a commendation from the City of Providence for
7 saving the life of a 14 year-old special education student at Pleasant View School; and

8 WHEREAS, Althea Mansolillo invigorated and enriched the lives of all around her and
9 she will be dearly missed; now, therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
11 hereby expresses our deepest sympathies on the passing of Althea Mansolillo. She will be forever
12 remembered as a devoted wife and loving mother, and for her love and accomplishments in and
13 out of the water; and be further

14 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
15 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Raymond Mansolillo, II, and Family, and Faith
16 Mansolillo Orabona and Family.

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