

2020 -- S 2908

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF NICHOLAS ALAHVERDIAN

Introduced By: Senator Maryellen Goodwin

Date Introduced: June 18, 2020

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, It is with sadness that this Senate has learned of the untimely passing of
2 Nicholas Alahverdian, the beloved husband to the love of his life whom he affectionately referred
3 to as "my daisy," a devoted and loving father to his two children, and an accomplished author and
4 passionate child welfare reform advocate; and

5 WHEREAS, Nicholas Alahverdian spent much of his youth in the foster care system.
6 During his years in the custody of the Department of Children, Youth, and Families, he endured
7 significant abuse, deprivation of education, neglect and harmful living conditions. The challenges
8 he faced throughout those years could have irreparably shattered his life but instead, those
9 hardships gave him understanding, passion, and drive; and

10 WHEREAS, More than a survivor, Nicholas endured and ultimately overcame his years
11 in the system to become a Harvard-trained sociologist and political scientist, an accomplished
12 author, and for two decades, one of the most vocal, outspoken and constructive advocates for
13 reforming Rhode Island's DCYF and the child care system; and

14 WHEREAS, Putting in marathon hours devoted to reform, Nicholas had worked with
15 four DCYF directors, spent hours in General Assembly committee hearings, and was described as
16 "A fighter in spirit but a peacemaker in practice"; and

17 WHEREAS, In addition to his family, writing and crusader for reform, Nicholas was a
18 devout Roman Catholic who loved to sail, paint and read, and ornithology; and

19 WHEREAS, Nicholas Alahverdian led "a warrior's life" fighting for some of the most
20 vulnerable children in our state. Sadly, he lost his final battle against non-Hodgkin Lymphoma

1 following complications with pneumonia but he will surely be remembered by those whose lives
2 he strived to improve and in the hearts of those he loved; now, therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
4 hereby extends deepest condolences on the passing of Nicholas Alahverdian; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
6 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mrs. Alahverdian and Family.

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