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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF GEORGE A. DAWSON

Introduced By: Senator Valarie J. Lawson

Date Introduced: May 20, 2024

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, It is with deep sadness that this Senate has learned of the passing of George
2 A. Dawson of East Providence, the beloved husband of the late Lois Donovan for fifty years; and

3 WHEREAS, George Donovan was born in Providence, a son of the late James and
4 Gladys Donovan. He was a lifelong East Providence resident. During World War II, Mr.
5 Donovan served our nation with honor and distinction as a member of the United States Coast
6 Guard, serving on ships and on Islands in the Southwest Pacific region. He also served as a
7 shipboard radio operator on the North Atlantic Ocean Weather and Ice Patrol; and

8 WHEREAS, George Donovan graduated from the University of Rhode Island in 1956
9 and also studied at the Universities of Connecticut, Notre Dame, Brown University and Rhode
10 Island College. After finishing his studies, he began a distinguished career as a public school
11 teacher. He taught history at Central Junior High School for two years, and at East Providence
12 High School for 28 years where he taught history, photography, and video production. He also
13 served as the Audio-Visual Instructional Media Specialist for fifteen years, and taught
14 photography at the East Providence Adult Evening School. In recognition of his outstanding work
15 as a teacher, Mr. Donovan received the "Outstanding Educator" Award in 1985, and served as the
16 Past President of the Rhode Island Social Studies Association; and

17 WHEREAS, George Donovan was also a talented photographer and audio-visual
18 specialist. In the 1960s and 1970s he worked as a TV news photographer for WJAR-TV. He also
19 videotaped all East Providence High School football games and other sports events for many
20 decades, and earned a Distinguished Service Award for his more than forty years of service as a

1 volunteer photographer with the East Providence Fire Department. He also produced firefighting
2 training films for the Ciba-Geigy Chemical Corporation Fire Brigade, and served as the Staff
3 Videographer for the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency's Urban Search and Rescue
4 Task Force; and

5 WHEREAS, George Donovan was very active in East Providence civic and charitable
6 affairs. He served as a Chairman of the East Providence Citizens Advisory Committee for Cable
7 Television, and was a member of the State Advisory Council for Cable Television. He also served
8 on the School Board for Sacred Heart School, and was a member of the East Providence
9 Historical Society, the Friends of the East Providence Library, and the Friends of Pomham Rocks
10 Lighthouse, and the Newport Naval War College Foundation. He also served as a member of the
11 National and Rhode Island Retired Teachers Associations, as the Rhode Island Legislative
12 Committee Chairman and Scholarship Committee Chairman, and was Past President of the East
13 Bay Retired Teachers Association; and

14 WHEREAS, George Donovan leaves behind his children, Commander Maureen
15 Davidovich, USN (RET), and her husband, Paul, Kathleen Cournoyer and her husband, Joseph,
16 Kristine Gannon and her husband, Gregory, Michael Donovan and his wife, Laura May, Stephen
17 Donovan and his wife, Susan, and Timothy Donovan and his wife, Brenda, as well as his
18 grandchildren, Matthew and Michael Cournoyer, Stephen, Peter and Kelly Donovan, Donald and
19 Timothy Donovan, Colin, Sean and Ryan Gannon, and seven great-grandchildren; and

20 WHEREAS, George Donovan was predeceased by his wife, Lois, his twin brother James
21 Donovan, brothers Robert Donovan and Dennis Donovan, sister Mary Donovan, and daughter-in-
22 law, Sharon Donovan; now, therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby expresses its
24 condolences on the passing of George A. Donovan; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
26 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Commander Maureen Davidovich, Kathleen
27 Cournoyer, Kristine Gannon, Michael Donovan, Steven Donovan and Timothy Donovan.

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