

2017 -- H 5366

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF WALTER M. ROCHA

Introduced By: Representatives Marshall, Donovan, O'Brien, Casey, and Fogarty

Date Introduced: February 02, 2017

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Walter M. Rocha of Bristol, Rhode Island, passed away on Sunday, January
2 29, 2017, at Rhode Island Hospital. He was the beloved husband of Rose Rocha; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Rocha was born in Feteiras, Ponta Delgada, Azores, Portugal, a son of
4 the late Jose and Maria Rocha. He had been a resident of Bristol, Rhode Island, since he was ten
5 years old, after immigrating to the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, Starting in 1972, Mr. Rocha worked for the Rhode Island Department of
7 Environmental Management's Parks and Recreation Division for thirty-five years. Thanks to his
8 tireless work ethic, steady leadership, and his abiding concern for protecting Rhode Island's vital
9 natural resources, Mr. Rocha rose through the ranks, from Caretaker Supervisor in 1976, to Park
10 Manager of Colt State Park in 1986, a position he held until his retirement in 2007; and

11 WHEREAS, In his capacity as the Park Manager of Colt State Park, Mr. Rocha was
12 responsible for the protection and management of East Bay recreational areas, including the East
13 Bay Bike Path and Haines Memorial State Park. He supervised the full-time maintenance staff
14 and the numerous seasonal park rangers. Most importantly, Mr. Rocha will be remembered for
15 the passion he brought every day to his job and the pride he took in improving the quality of life
16 for the visitors of Colt State Park; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Rocha was very active in community affairs throughout his life. He was
18 a life member of the Bristol Fire Department Hydraulion's Engine-1, a member of the Bristol
19 F.O.P. Lodge 28, and served with the Bristol Fire-Police. He was a parishioner of St. Elizabeth
20 Church and a member of the Bristol Elks, also serving them as a former trustee; and

1 WHEREAS, In addition to his wife, Mr. Rocha leaves behind his two sons, Walter B.
2 Rocha, and Raymond Rocha. He was the brother of Joseph "Joe" Rocha, Fernando Rocha, and
3 Mariano "Mario" Rocha. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews; now, therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
5 Providence Plantations hereby expresses its condolences on the passing of Walter M. Rocha; and
6 be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
8 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Rose Rocha and Family.

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