

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF ROSE M. LAVOIE

Introduced By: Senators P Fogarty, Paiva Weed, Felag, Algieri, and Satchell

Date Introduced: January 19, 2017

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Rose M. LaVoie, beloved wife of Kenneth F. "Skip" LaVoie, passed away
2 on Monday, January 9, 2017. She was born in Burrillville, Rhode Island, a daughter of the late
3 Ernest J. and Eleanor Lange. She was also the devoted mother of Kevin A. LaVoie and his wife
4 Reena, Keith A. Lavoie, and the late Kenneth F. LaVoie, Jr.; and

5 WHEREAS, Rose and her husband, Skip, moved to Chepachet in 1946. In 1964, she and
6 her husband took over the management of the Purple Cat Restaurant, an establishment that had
7 been run since 1929 by her husband's parents. Together, they owned and operated the Purple Cat
8 for forty-three years, providing their delicious and wholesome food and becoming a beloved
9 fixture within the community. For her outstanding service in the restaurant industry, Rose was
10 awarded the lifetime Achievement Award from the Rhode Island Hospitality and Tourism
11 Association in 2001. In 1984, she received the "Women of the Year" award from the North
12 Providence Business and Professional Women's Club; and

13 WHEREAS, Rose was very active in community affairs and worked tirelessly to make
14 Rhode Island a better place to live. In 1980, she was named the "Volunteer of the Year" by the
15 NCNHS for Outstanding Community Service. Rose was also a longtime preservation activist,
16 serving on many boards and commissions. As president of the Gloucester Heritage Society, she
17 played a critical role in achieving funds to restore the Reuben Mason House. For her efforts in
18 this regard, she received the Antoinette Downing Award from the Rhode Island Historic
19 Preservation Commission and the Governor's Regional Tourism Award; and

20 WHEREAS, Rose also received many additional awards honoring of her distinguished

1 professional career. She was a member of the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council and in 2004,
2 was the recipient of the William Blackstone Society Award from the Council. She was a founding
3 member and Past President of the Gloucester Business Association and was given the Joan M.
4 Scarpio Award for Dedicated Service to Club and Community. She was also the recipient of the
5 GBA Lifetime Achievement Award in 2004, and received the Thomas Wilson Dorr Award in
6 2009 from the Gloucester Heritage Society as Citizen Extraordinaire. In 2012, she was named the
7 Citizen of the Year by the Chepachet Grange, and co-chaired the Gloucester Bicentennial
8 Celebration Committee, and was chairwoman of the 4th of July Ancients and Horribles Parade
9 from 1986 to 1991; and

10 WHEREAS, In her spare time, Rose enjoyed spending summers at her home in Boothbay
11 Harbor, Maine. She also enjoyed reading, doing crossword puzzles, attending Gloucester Town
12 Council meetings, and doting on her grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and

13 WHEREAS, In addition to her husband and sons, Rose leaves behind her brother Edward
14 F. Lange, and sisters Doris A. Hill and Norma M. O'Leary. She was predeceased by her siblings
15 Ernest F. Lange, Jr., and the late Mary F. Gallagher. She also leaves behind her grandchildren
16 Kenneth F. LaVoie III, Tara N. Kruzewski, and Kelsea Rose LaVoie, and her great-
17 grandchildren, Elissa Rose LaVoie, Joseph Kruzewski, Johanna Kruzewski, and Landon LaVoie;
18 now, therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
20 hereby expresses its condolences to the LaVoie Family on the passing of Rose M. LaVoie; and be
21 it further

22 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
23 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mr. Kenneth F. LaVoie.

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