

2020 -- H 7647

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXTENDING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE
EDWARD P. SOWA, JR.

Introduced By: Representatives Mattiello, Lyle, Shekarchi, Filippi, and Blazejewski

Date Introduced: February 25, 2020

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, It is with deep sadness and regret that this House has learned of the passing
2 of the Honorable Edward P. Sowa, Jr., beloved husband of Janet Sowa for fifty-two years,
3 cherished father of Kristen Chip and her husband, Patrick, and Jeffrey Sowa and his wife,
4 Jennifer, and the very proud grandfather of Cameron, Jordan, Cameron, Delaney, Benjamin,
5 Brendan, Brooke, and Brady; and

6 WHEREAS, Born in the City of Pawtucket, a son of the late Isabelle and Edward Sowa,
7 Sr., Mr. Sowa was a graduate of St. Raphael's Academy, and received his Bachelor's degree from
8 the University of Rhode Island, and his Juris Doctor degree from Boston University. He also
9 served as a Staff Sergeant in the Army Reserves 443rd Civil Affairs Company during the
10 Vietnam War; and

11 WHEREAS, Upon graduation from law school and passing the Bar, Mr. Sowa joined the
12 firm of Gunning & LaFazia as a trial attorney and became a partner during his twenty-seven years
13 with the firm; and

14 WHEREAS, The Honorable Edward Sowa was nominated to the Rhode Island Workers'
15 Compensation Court by former Governor Lincoln Almond. He served as an Associate Justice for
16 fifteen years, retiring in 2016. He had also served as a Probate Court Judge for the Town of
17 Lincoln; and

18 WHEREAS, Also very active in the community, Justice Sowa volunteered for a number
19 of altruistic and civic organizations including serving as a Cub Scout Leader, Little League coach,

1 and religious education instructor. In addition, he was a 4th degree Knight in the Knights of
2 Columbus and had acted as Grand Knight, and had worked with young people through the Rhode
3 Island Mock Trial program, for which the program named the Sowa Cup championship trophy
4 award in his honor; and

5 WHEREAS, Devoted to his faith, Justice Sowa was an active member of St. Eugene's
6 Catholic Church in Chepachet, where he often served as a Lector at Sunday Mass, was a
7 Eucharistic Minister, and a member of the parish financial committee; and

8 WHEREAS, Proud of his Polish heritage, Justice Sowa loved to prepare Polish food,
9 dance the polka, sing Polish songs, and thoroughly enjoyed his involvement in the Polish Cultural
10 Commission and the Kosciuszko Foundation. He was also fond of traveling, bowling, playing
11 golf, and was an avid Patriots, Red Sox, and URI Rams fan; and

12 WHEREAS, The Honorable Edward Sowa possessed a fair and magnanimous spirit, and
13 he will be profoundly missed by those who had the good fortune to be a part of his vital and
14 fulfilling life; now, therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
16 Providence Plantations hereby expresses our deepest personal sympathies on the passing of the
17 Honorable Edward P. Sowa, Jr. He will forever be remembered by the entire membership and the
18 citizens of this State as a highly respected and admired judge who presided with fairness and
19 justice over the matters before the Rhode Island Workers' Compensation Court; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
21 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mrs. Janet Sowa and Family.

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