WHEREAS, It is with utmost sadness that this House has learned of the passing of Dr. Ernest “E.J.” Finocchio, an enormously well-respected animal advocate who served as the 10th President and General Agent of the Rhode Island Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RISPCA); and

WHEREAS, The oft quoted saying that, "We can judge the heart of a man by his treatment of animals" truly expounds the life of Dr. E.J. Finocchio who generously and consistently contributed his time and energies to the betterment of the community and animals big and small; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Finocchio served as the President and General Agent of the RISPCA for eighteen years, retiring in 2019. During his tenure, he passionately fought for animals and against all forms of animal cruelty; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Dr. Finocchio was the founder of the Marvin Fund, which was named after the disabled black Labrador retriever he had adopted. The Fund raises monies to help low-income pet owners pay for their pet's veterinary care; and

WHEREAS, Previous to his work with the RISPCA, Dr. Finocchio had owned and operated the New England Horse Care Center for thirty-five years; and

WHEREAS, Lauded by his peers and all animal lovers, Dr. Finocchio was named Veterinarian of the Year by the Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Society in 2019, and had been selected as an awardee in the "Pet Partners" rescue category of the Delta Society's 2009 Beyond
WHEREAS, Sadly, Dr. Finocchio succumbed to the cruel impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and while there is never a fitting or easy time to lose someone you love, our unprecedented current world circumstances make these losses even more difficult to bear. Dr. Finocchio truly respected and loved all life, and was adored by those who had the good fortune to be part of his time on this earth; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby extends deepest condolences on the passing of Ernest J. Finocchio, D.V.M.; and

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Rhode Island Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.