

2021 -- H 5331

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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

EXTENDING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF EDMUND D. FULLER

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Kazarian, Vella-Wilkinson,
Amore, Casimiro, Ackerman, Solomon, Corvese, and Williams

Date Introduced: February 04, 2021

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, It is with deep sadness that this House of Representatives has learned of the
2 passing of Edmund D. Fuller on Sunday, January 24, 2021. Better known as "Ted" by his family
3 and many friends, he leaves behind his beloved wife, Kristine Fuller, and a legacy of community
4 that continues to this day; and

5 WHEREAS, Ted was a giant in the Rhode Island hospitality community, with his
6 influence helping to shape one of the state's largest industries; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1972, Ted purchased Gregg's Restaurants and Taverns, transforming
8 what was a small local eatery into a Rhode Island institution. Under his guidance, the restaurant
9 expanded from its initial Warwick location to additional restaurants in Providence, East
10 Providence, and North Kingstown; and

11 WHEREAS, In an effort to give back to the community, Ted developed the Gregg's
12 Giving Tree, a holiday tradition that donates Christmas gifts to children, seniors, and other Rhode
13 Islanders in need; and

14 WHEREAS, In August of 1996, Gregg's kicked off a unique community partnership with
15 Hasbro Children's Hospital. The partnership is formed around a luscious, four-layer chocolate
16 peanut butter cake created by Gregg's master bakers specifically to benefit the children's hospital.
17 Gregg's appropriately named the new specialty dessert the "Giving Cake." Each time a whole
18 Giving Cake is purchased, \$2 of the purchase price is donated to the children's hospital, and each
19 slice purchased provides a 25-cent donation. Since its inception, Gregg's has donated more than
20 \$130,000 through this program; and

1 WHEREAS, In 1985, frustrated by a lack in technology, Ted and his brother, Bill,
2 created the first of its kind point of sale system featuring a touch screen. Today, POSitouch is an
3 internationally renowned company leading the field in restaurant technology innovation; and

4 WHEREAS, A central component of Ted’s vision was to create a culture of community
5 for the hospitality industry in Rhode Island. In 1988, Ted, along with the late William DeAngelis
6 of Twin Oaks Restaurant and Ned Grace, the founder of Capital Grille and Hemenways, re-
7 established the RI Hospitality Association, which has served as the voice of the hospitality
8 industry in Rhode Island for the past thirty-two years. To this day, RIHA uses Ted’s “Culture of
9 Community” as one of its guiding principles; and

10 WHEREAS, Well-respected within the Hospitality community, in 2003, Ted received an
11 honorary doctorate from Johnson & Wales University in recognition of his influence in the
12 industry; and

13 WHEREAS, Gregg’s prominence in the RI restaurant scene was a great source of pride
14 and satisfaction for Ted. His stewardship and guidance were important to so many that worked
15 with him over the years. Even after his retirement in 2008, his influence has continued to be an
16 important part of the company’s success; and

17 WHEREAS, Ted Fuller will be fondly remembered by the many members of his Gregg’s
18 Family, his friends at the RI Hospitality Association, and the many restaurants that have benefited
19 from his influence. In the words of his long-time friend, Dale J. Venturini, “He was one of these
20 people that was just ageless, and I think that was all just because of his heart and soul of
21 embracing and giving everybody some part of him”; now, therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
23 extends its sincere condolences on the passing of Edmund D. Fuller; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
25 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Mrs. Kristine Fuller and Mr. Dale J. Venturini.

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