

2021 -- H 6165

=====
LC002539
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF DR. ROBIN WALLACE

Introduced By: Representatives Abney, Carson, Ruggiero, Cortvriend, Shekarchi,
Blazejewski, Filippi, Edwards, and Ajello

Date Introduced: March 25, 2021

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Robin Wallace of Middletown was born Alan Robin Gordon Wallace in
2 Weymouth, England, the only child of Dr. Gordon and Muriel Wallace; and

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Wallace graduated from Exeter College at Oxford University with a
4 degree in Medicine. He first visited Newport in 1964 for the British America's Cup Challenge,
5 where his father was Commodore of the Royal Dorset Yacht Club, the Challenger of Record in
6 the event, and also served as Fleet Surgeon, a position his son would later hold for the New York
7 Yacht Club; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Wallace completed his residency at the Children's Hospital of Boston
9 and then moved to Newport where he established a successful practice in association with Dr.
10 Fred Pearce with Aquidneck Medical Associates. Although a British citizen, soon after beginning
11 his practice, Dr. Wallace was drafted into the United States Army and served our nation with
12 honor and integrity in Vietnam as a Major in the Medical Corps. After completing his military
13 service, he returned to his medical practice on Memorial Boulevard until retiring in 2003.
14 However, he continued his service as the "School Doctor" for St. George's School until 2017; and

15 WHEREAS, In addition to being a much sought after pediatrician, Dr. Wallace reached
16 icon status in Newport for his leadership and advocacy on all things related to sailing. He had
17 learned how to sail as a child from his father and sailing remained a passion of his throughout his
18 life. As a member of the Ida Lewis Yacht Club, he and Race Committee Chairman Robert Connor
19 trained the members of the Club, and also fought tirelessly in support of establishing new
20 standards of excellence for race management. Their efforts led to the introduction in America of

1 "ton racing", a European type of level ocean racing, and the instant success of the race series for
2 the Sail Cup shined a light on the superb race management excellence of the Ida Lewis Yacht
3 Club, for which it is nationally recognized for today; and

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Wallace also promoted sailing events for the City of Newport, and
5 served as the Chairman of the State Yachting Committee for more than seventeen years. He did
6 an exemplary job of educating elected officials and civic leaders about the important economic
7 impact sailing has on the State of Rhode Island and thanks to his leadership and advocacy, the
8 State Yachting Committee was able to secure the release of the necessary State funding that made
9 it possible for Newport to host the Prestigious Volvo Races in 2015 and 2018; and

10 WHEREAS, After the loss of the America's Cup in 1983, Dr. Wallace became one of the
11 founding members of Sail Newport, a public sailing organization that provides sailing, and
12 instruction, and boating facilities to the public. Sail Newport also runs regattas and hosts a variety
13 of sailing events and activities that contribute much to the wider Newport community; and

14 WHEREAS, Dr. Wallace was a Commodore of the Ida Lewis Yacht Club and a long-
15 time member of the New York Yacht Club. He was active this past season in race management at
16 both clubs as sailing was one of the sports allowed to continue its activities during the pandemic.
17 He was also a longtime active member of the Newport Reading Room; and

18 WHEREAS, Dr. Wallace was also a passionate supporter of the St. George's School
19 where he conducted morning "sick call" for more than thirty-five years and played a vital role in
20 improving the health center and the general overall wellness of the St. George's community. He
21 always attended the school's home and away football and ice hockey games and provided
22 immediate medical attention to the players from both teams when injuries occurred. His longtime
23 support of and devotion to school athletics was recognized and honored by St. George's when he
24 was inducted into its Athletic Hall of Fame; and

25 WHEREAS, Dr. Wallace leaves behind two cousins in England, and a large extended
26 family that includes his St. George's Family, his Sail Newport Family, his Ida Lewis Family, the
27 Murphy Family, his loyal friends Bill and Pat Steel, his many friends from Newport and beyond,
28 and generations of pediatric patients and their parents, and he will be sorely missed; now,
29 therefore be it

30 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
31 expresses its deepest condolences on the passing of Dr. Robin Wallace; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
2 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mr. Brad Read, Executive Director, Sail
3 Newport.

=====
LC002539
=====