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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE VITO ANTHONY SARITELLI

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Corvese, Azzinaro, McNamara, Kennedy, Fenton-Fung, O'Brien, Serpa, and Filippi

Date Introduced: January 06, 2022

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, It is with great sadness that this House of Representatives has learned of the  
2 passing of a distinguished former colleague, the Honorable Vito Anthony Saritelli. Mr. Saritelli  
3 was the devoted husband of Gertrude Saritelli. He was the beloved son of the late Samuel and  
4 Antonetta Saritelli; and

5           WHEREAS, Mr. Saritelli was born in Providence and graduated from Central High  
6 School, attained a college degree and served our nation with honor and distinction as a member of  
7 the United States Army's 43rd Infantry Division. Mr. Saritelli was a hard-working man who  
8 worked tirelessly to provide for his family and loved ones as a Life and Casualty Insurance  
9 Agent; and

10           WHEREAS, Mr. Saritelli's greatest passion in life was his love for music. He was a  
11 lifelong singer who performed in many opera, operetta and musical comedy productions. He also  
12 sang with many church and choral groups, performing at times as a tenor soloist. Mr. Saritelli  
13 took great joy and pride in singing in with his friend, Dr. C. Alexander Peloquin, who Mr.  
14 Saritelli considered to be the best composer, organist and choral director in the 20th century  
15 Catholic Church; and

16           WHEREAS, Mr. Saritelli also forged many enduring friendships during his many years  
17 of volunteering and singing at the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul in Providence. Mr. Saritelli  
18 was also the co-founder in 1977, and later Executive Director and Music Director/Conductor, of  
19 the Providence Civic Orchestra of Senior Citizens. Throughout his life, Mr. Saritelli gave much

1 of his time volunteering and performing at countless orchestral events at schools, senior living  
2 facilities, and the Rhode Island Veterans' Home; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Saritelli, a first generation Italian-American, was always imbued with a  
4 deeply patriotic spirit and great appreciation for the freedom and opportunities our nation affords  
5 all of its citizens. Mr. Saritelli also deeply believed in serving others and felt a calling to run for  
6 public office. In 1978, Mr. Saritelli was elected to the Rhode Island House of Representatives,  
7 where he served his constituents of District Five in Providence with passion and integrity from  
8 1979 to 1984; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Saritelli was a widely admired member of the Rhode Island House of  
10 Representatives who, in recognition of his strong leadership skills, vast knowledge and  
11 experience, and strong work-ethic, was chosen to chair a number of Committees including the  
12 Joint Committee on the Arts, where Mr. Saritelli became the General Assembly's leading  
13 advocate for the arts. Other Committees chaired by Mr. Saritelli included the Joint Legislative  
14 Commission to study the Auto Repair Industry in Rhode Island and Other States, the Joint  
15 Legislative Commission to study Juvenile Diversionary, Community Service and Restitution  
16 Programs, and the Rhode Island Arts and Tourism Commission. Mr. Saritelli also served on the  
17 House Labor Committee, the House Health, Education and Welfare Committee, the State  
18 Education Commissioners Advisory Council on the Arts, the Providence School Superintendent's  
19 Arts Advisory Commission, and many other important committees; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Saritelli was a loyal, kind and generous gentleman who lived a life full  
21 of love, passion and service to God, country, his family, and many friends. He will be sorely  
22 missed by all who knew him and loved him, and the beautiful music he created will live on  
23 forever in the memories of the many fortunate people who were blessed to hear him perform; and

24 WHEREAS, In addition to his wife Gertrude, Mr. Saritelli also leaves behind his four  
25 step-children, Mary-Jane Newbert, David Kilmartin, Jr., Pat Lincoln and Rosemarie Royal. He  
26 was the brother of Maria Ponticelli, Annamaria DiPanni, and the late Joseph Saritelli, Samuel  
27 Saritelli, Edith Drake, Angelo Saritelli, Mario Saritelli, Amando Saritelli, Anthony Saritelli,  
28 Genevieve Romano, and Adele Klones. Mr. Saritelli was also the beloved uncle to many nieces  
29 and nephews; now, 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 the Honorable Vito Anthony Saritelli; and be  
32 it further

33 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
34 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mrs. Gertrude Saritelli.

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