

2022 -- H 7011

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXTENDING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE
RAYMOND J. SULLIVAN, JR.

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Ackerman, McNamara,
Ruggiero, Solomon, Serpa, Messier, Fellela, and Carson

Date Introduced: January 06, 2022

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, It is with deep sadness that this House of Representatives has learned of the
2 untimely passing of the Honorable Raymond J. Sullivan, Jr., a former valued member of the
3 Rhode Island House of Representatives, a dedicated advocate for myriad social justice issues, and
4 a highly-respected political strategist; and

5 WHEREAS, Ray Sullivan, affectionately known as "R.J." by his family and friends, was
6 the son of Maureen and Raymond Sullivan, Sr. He graduated from Bishop Hendricken High
7 School and attended Providence College, which resulted in a lifelong devotion to PC Friars
8 Basketball, as well as a love for coaching basketball, which he did for many years with the
9 Coventry Basketball Association, the Coventry Wildcats later known as the RI Breakers, head
10 basketball coach for Fr. Doyle School in Coventry, and coaching and refereeing in the Providence
11 City Recreation League; and

12 WHEREAS, His faith and upbringing greatly influenced Ray's early altruistic endeavors.
13 He was dedicated to Our Lady of Czentochowa Parish for many years, serving as an altar boy for
14 several years. He was later active with the Beneficent Congregational Church and Sanctuary
15 Church Online, and was a member of Byron A. Northup Chapter of DeMolay, where he served as
16 Master Councilor of the Northup Chapter and State Master Councilor of Rhode Island DeMolay,
17 and earned the degrees of Chevalier and Legion of Honor; and

18 WHEREAS, On November 2, 2004, the Honorable Ray Sullivan was elected to the
19 Rhode Island House of Representatives, representing his constituency in District 29, which

1 encompasses neighborhoods in the Towns of Coventry and West Greenwich. He served for three
2 terms from 2005 to 2011; and

3 WHEREAS, During his tenure in the House, Ray was highly respected and valued by his
4 peers. He served as Deputy Majority Leader, Vice Chair of the House Committee on Rules, and
5 as a member of the House Committees on Environment and Natural Resources, Judiciary,
6 Separation of Powers, and on the Joint Committee on Highway Safety; and

7 WHEREAS, Brilliant and perceptive, Ray had been employed in many political
8 capacities. In 2002, he became deeply involved in Myrth York's Gubernatorial Campaign. He
9 later served as State Director of the Obama campaign in 2008, Campaign Manager for US
10 Representative James R. Langevin in 2010, Director of legislative and government affairs for
11 former Lieutenant Governor Charles J. Fogarty, Executive Director of Marriage Equality Rhode
12 Island from 2011 to 2013, when the state passed legislation legalizing same-sex marriage, and
13 most recently at the Checkmate Consulting Group, for the last eight years; and

14 WHEREAS, Ray Sullivan gathered many friends and admirers during his lifetime who
15 affectionately described him as "big hearted and vivacious," a "fearless advocate for the LGBTQ
16 community" and a man who "had an unmatched sense of humor and never took himself too
17 seriously, but he took the work he did very seriously because he understood its impact on real
18 people." He devoted his life to the noble profession of public service and he will be deeply
19 missed; now, therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
21 extends deepest condolences to the family of Raymond J. Sullivan, Jr.; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
23 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Maureen and Raymond Sullivan, Sr.

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