

2022 -- H 7263

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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  
RODNEY D. DRIVER

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Kennedy, McNamara,  
Azzinaro, Corvese, Serpa, Slater, Filippi, and Price

Date Introduced: February 01, 2022

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, It is with sadness that this House has learned of the passing of the  
2 Honorable Rodney D. Driver, beloved husband of the late Carole Driver for sixty-five years, and  
3 the loving father of David Driver and his wife, Joyce Yokoe, Karen Driver and her late former  
4 husband, Mark Lussier, and Bruce Driver and his wife, Linda. He was also the very proud  
5 grandfather of Jason Driver, Austin Driver, Kristin Lussier, Jenny Lussier, Sarah Driver and  
6 Daniel Driver, and the great-grandfather of Addison Driver and Jonah Driver; and

7           WHEREAS, Born in London, England, Rod Driver was the son of the late Marjorie and  
8 William Driver, the brother of Vera Carlson and the late Walt Driver, and the uncle to many  
9 nieces and nephews. After enduring the Battle of Britain and the Blitz, Mr. Driver's family  
10 immigrated to the United States in 1945, settling in Minneapolis, Minnesota; and

11           WHEREAS, Mr. Driver attended the University of Minnesota where he earned both his  
12 Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Electrical Engineering, as well as his PhD in Mathematics.  
13 More importantly, while attending a "ladies choice" dance at the University, he met his future  
14 wife, Carole, whom he married in 1955; and

15           WHEREAS, Relocating to Rhode Island, Mr. Driver was a professor at the University of  
16 Rhode Island from 1969 until his retirement in 1998. He was also an accomplished author of  
17 three mathematics books and dozens of research papers, had lectured in Europe and across the  
18 United States, and was a member of the American Mathematical Society and the Mathematical  
19 Association of America; and

1           WHEREAS, In addition to his passion for mathematics, Mr. Driver devoted much of his  
2 life to foreign policy and human rights. He was a member of Amnesty International, the  
3 American Friends Service Committee, SEARCH for Justice and Equality in Palestine/Israel, and  
4 the Sierra Club; and

5           WHEREAS, Mr. Driver subsequently became more involved with politics, writing letters  
6 to the editor at the beginning of the Vietnam War, and campaigning for other candidates. In the  
7 1960s, before moving to Rhode Island, he had run for Congress as a Republican in New Mexico.  
8 He was later elected as a delegate to the 1986 Rhode Island Constitutional Convention, and soon  
9 after was elected to the Rhode Island House of Representatives serving from 1987 until 1995.  
10 After serving in the General Assembly, he ran for Congress as an Independent, coming in a strong  
11 2nd in a 3-way race, and in 2008, was reelected to the Rhode Island House, representing the 39th  
12 District until 2010; and

13           WHEREAS, For many decades, and particularly during his years in the House, Mr.  
14 Driver had championed and advocated for numerous social justice and environmental issues  
15 including, banning smoking in public places, recycling and reducing waste, working for human  
16 rights in Palestine/Israel, and supporting a woman's right to choose and LGBT rights, to name but  
17 a few of the worthwhile causes he pursued; and

18           WHEREAS, The Honorable Rod Driver "was known for his infectious and booming  
19 laugh that could be heard from a mile away" and for being "always up for sharing a good joke  
20 over endless bowls of ice cream." His decades of service to the people of Rhode Island was  
21 laudable and heartfelt and he will be dearly missed; now, therefore be it

22           RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
23 extends deepest condolences on the passing of the Honorable Rodney D. Driver; 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 David Driver and Family, Karen Driver and  
26 Family, and Bruce Driver and Family.

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