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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE GRACE
FRANCES KLINGER

Introduced By: Senators E Morgan, Gu, DiPalma, Zurier, F. Lombardi, LaMountain,
Quezada, Sosnowski, Tikoian, and Picard

Date Introduced: February 08, 2024

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, It is with deep sadness that this Senate has learned of the passing of the
2 Honorable Grace Frances Klinger. She was born in Queens, New York, to the late Thomas and
3 Catherine Hartigan, and was the beloved wife of Frederick Klinger for fifty-two years; and

4 WHEREAS, The Honorable Grace Frances Klinger was a successful business woman, a
5 respected and dedicated public servant, and a dedicated wife, mother, grandmother and aunt; and

6 WHEREAS, Mrs. Klinger was a hard-working professional who owned and operated
7 Yester-Year Antiques for more than forty years. She worked tirelessly every day to provide for
8 her family and loved ones; and

9 WHEREAS, Grace Klinger was a woman of many talents who was also a Certified
10 Master Gardener. A dedicated public servant with abiding integrity, she served as the Chairperson
11 of the Charlestown Conservation Commission for thirteen years, and was the former President of
12 the Federated Garden Clubs of Coral Springs, Florida, Brookfield, Connecticut, and Westerly,
13 Rhode Island; and

14 WHEREAS, Most recently, Mrs. Klinger had been a well-respected member of the
15 Charlestown Town Council. As a member, she played a key role in ensuring that the beautiful
16 twenty-seven acre Patricia Sprague Forest Preserve property would become a town-owned and
17 operated open space property. She also strove tirelessly to maintain the rural charm and character
18 of Charlestown, and strongly supported the development of cost-efficient and appropriate housing
19 options within Charlestown; and

1 WHEREAS, In addition to her husband, Mrs. Klinger leaves behind her daughter,
2 Suzanne Viens and her husband, Andrew, and her grandchildren, Riley, Reagan and Rowan. She
3 also leaves behind her nephews, Brian, Dennis, Thomas, William, Kevin, and a niece, Maureen.
4 She was predeceased by her sisters, Maureen Hartigan, Anne Hartigan and Catherine McNicholl;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Everyone who knew Grace Klinger widely admired her and enjoyed
7 working with her. Perhaps Charlestown Council President Deborah Carney described her best
8 saying that "She was a wonderful lady, very dedicated to the Town of Charlestown," "and added
9 that "She touched many, many lives through all of her work with the various organizations she
10 was involved with. She was a good friend to so many people, she was always there when you
11 needed her. You could always count on her for anything. She will be sorely missed"; now,
12 therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby expresses its
14 condolences on the passing of the Honorable Grace Frances Klinger; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
16 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Frederick Klinger and Suzanne Viens.

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