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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

**EXPRESSING PROFOUND SYMPATHY ON THE PASSING OF FRANK DIPAOLO, JR.,
HONORARY SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE**

Introduced By: Representatives Fox, Mattiello, Corvese, San Bento, and McNamara

Date Introduced: March 06, 2013

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, On Thursday, February 14, 2013, the State of Rhode Island lost one of its
2 greatest treasures with the passing of Frank DiPaolo, Jr.; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. DiPaolo, who was 106 years old, devoted his life to steadfastly
4 supporting the American dream and to tirelessly working to make a better life for generations of
5 Rhode Islanders. For the last three decades, he was a much-loved inhabitant of the State House.
6 Much more than his title of doorkeeper conveyed, Frank generously shared his wisdom, his
7 unqualified friendship, and his sharp sense of humor with legions of members of the Rhode Island
8 General Assembly; and

9 WHEREAS, In 2010, Frank was designated as "Honorary Speaker of the House" in
10 special recognition of his more than thirty-two years of wisdom, humor, loyalty, unqualified
11 friendship and distinguished service to the Rhode Island House of Representatives; and

12 WHEREAS, Frank was married to the late Eugenia DiPaolo, and together, they raised
13 Evelyn, Thomas, Claire, and the late Richard. He was also blessed with fifteen grandchildren,
14 seventeen great-grandchildren and a newly arrived great-great granddaughter and was the brother
15 of Clara and the late Etta, Philip, and Anthony; and

16 WHEREAS, Frank's life was replete with a wealth of experiences and a significant array
17 of relationships. In his youth, he passionately pursued bicycle racing. He was also an assistant to
18 Dr. Thomas F. Scanlon for many years, and built a friendship with the doctor that was based on
19 mutual respect and a shared love of hunting and fishing; and

1 WHEREAS, Frank displayed considerable talent as a mechanic and maintained a small
2 fleet of flower cars. While he considered it a thrill to travel to Indianapolis to watch the Indy 500,
3 in his heart, no other vehicle ever came close to his 1926 Packard touring cars; and

4 WHEREAS, For many years, Frank and his brother, Philip, were the owners of the Castle
5 Spa on Chalkstone Avenue, a must visit destination that earned its reputation for having the best
6 ham sandwiches in the state; and

7 WHEREAS, Frank’s adult life was marked by energy and enthusiasm for local, state, and
8 national politics. He consistently supported those political candidates he thought could change the
9 world for the better. In 1928, he backed New York Governor Alfred Smith in the Governor’s
10 unsuccessful run for President. Frank went on to help fuel the campaigns of fifteen Rhode Island
11 governors and over thirty General Assembly races; and

12 WHEREAS, Frank played an especially prominent role in supporting former
13 Congressman Patrick Kennedy, when the Congressman was still a student at Providence College
14 and Castle Spa customer who dreamed of becoming a statesman. Frank saw the budding
15 leadership in young Patrick and provided him with seasoned advice and encouragement that won
16 him a seat in the Rhode Island House of Representatives and paved the way to a successful bid
17 for Congress. Congressman Kennedy counted Frank as one of his most trusted advisors and
18 friends, and Frank, in turn, considered Congressman Kennedy as his “number three son”; and

19 WHEREAS, At the age of 99, Frank attended a White House dinner and met the
20 President, but he was most proud of having a private audience at the Vatican with Pope John Paul
21 II; and

22 WHEREAS, Frank DiPaolo achieved an extraordinary impact over the course of his
23 lifetime, through his actions and through the actions he inspired in others. A man of immense
24 conviction, he never wavered in his support of what he thought was right and good; now,
25 therefore be it

26 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
27 Providence Plantations hereby expresses its profound sympathy on the passing of Frank DiPaolo,
28 a man whom we regard as Honorary Speaker of the House. Our grief today is the grief of Rhode
29 Island; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
31 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the DiPaolo Family and The Honorable Patrick
32 Kennedy.

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