

2017 -- H 5942

LC002215

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO THE LYNCH FAMILY ON THE PASSING OF JOHN D. LYNCH, ESQUIRE

Introduced By: Representatives Craven, Ucci, Shekarchi, Shanley, and McNamara

Date Introduced: March 16, 2017

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, John D. Lynch, Esquire, passed peacefully surrounded by his family on
2 March 14, 2017, after a long and difficult battle with Alzheimer's Disease; and

3 WHEREAS, John is survived by his wife of 55 years, Patricia M. (Washburn) Lynch and
4 his ten children: Susan Lynch McKnight and her husband Jamie, of Narragansett; the Honorable
5 Karen Lynch Bernard, Associate Justice of the Rhode Island Family Court, of Warwick; Bethany
6 A. Furtado, Chairwoman of the Warwick School Committee, and her husband Gil, of Warwick;
7 Kristen E. Lynch of Warwick; Deborah L. D'Orsi and her husband Scott, of Sudbury,
8 Massachusetts; Tricia A. McCool and her husband Steve, of West Roxbury, Massachusetts; John
9 D. Lynch, Jr., Esquire and his wife Demonica, of Warwick; Jennifer L. Buckley, Esquire and her
10 husband Jerry of Warwick; the Honorable Erin Lynch Prata, State Senator District 31, and her
11 husband Joe, of Warwick; and Joseph R. Lynch and his wife Danielle, of Belmont, California. He
12 also leaves his 27 beloved grandchildren: Jimmy and Paige McKnight; Robert, Owen and
13 Georgia Bernard; Matthew, Nicolas and Zachary Furtado; Raymond Pendergast; Hope, Will,
14 Tess, Drew and Luke D'Orsi; Jack, Corinne, Devlin, Jimmy and Catherine McCool; Julia Lynch;
15 Carly, Ryan, Ben and Danny Buckley; and Caleb, Charlie and Nolan Lynch; and

16 WHEREAS, John was the son of the late James F. Lynch, a former Warwick Police
17 Chief, and Rita M. (Craig) Lynch. He also leaves behind his sisters Dorothy Horan and Rita M.
18 Lynch Barbone; his brother James C. Lynch and his wife Joyce; his sisters-in-law Nancy
19 Bessette, formerly of Cranston, and Judy Mullarkey and her husband Ed of Rocky Hill,

1 Connecticut. He was the brother of the late Richard Lynch. John leaves behind many nieces,
2 nephews and good friend; and.

3 WHEREAS, John was a lifelong Warwick resident and was very proud of his Apponaug
4 roots. He was a graduate of LaSalle Academy, class of 1957, where he was captain of the football
5 team, Boston College Class of 1961, and Suffolk University School of Law Class of 1964; and

6 WHEREAS, John practiced law for over 50 years at his law office on Tollgate Road in
7 Warwick, proudly practicing over the last few decades with his children Karen, John Jr., Jennifer
8 and Erin. He was a member of the Rhode Island and Federal Bar Associations; Kent County Bar
9 Association; Rhode Island Family Law Inns of Court; Rhode Island Trial Lawyers Association;
10 and the National Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys. He was recognized as the Boston
11 College Man of the Year by the Boston College Club of Rhode Island and was appointed by
12 Governor Noel as a member on the original Judicial Tenure and Discipline Committee. He was a
13 past associate member of the Warwick FOP, Knights of Columbus, Warwick Elks, Potowomut
14 Golf Club and the Rhode Island State Police Auxiliary. He was very proud to have been
15 appointed as an Honorary Lt. Colonel of the Rhode Island State Police by Colonel Walter E.
16 Stone; and

17 WHEREAS, John was recognized by his peers and clients as an outstanding criminal,
18 civil, and divorce attorney. He was known for his keen intellect, quick wit, and especially for his
19 voracious representation of his clients. John was a leader and a mentor to many young lawyers.
20 Over the years, he had some very memorable cases. In the 1980's he represented a client in an
21 Alienation of Affection lawsuit which gained national attention and led to appearances on the
22 Oprah Winfrey, Phil Donahue, and Sally Jesse Raphael shows. In the 1990's he represented the
23 Estate of Pearl Sunderland Rose which resulted in an auction of hundreds of historical artifacts
24 and paintings, in particular a long lost 1858 Albert Bierstadt 6'x10' painting of Lake Lucerne,
25 which was recovered from the late Ms. Rose's home and restored. The painting currently hangs in
26 the National Gallery of Art, in Washington D.C; and

27 WHEREAS, A life-long Democrat, John ran for the Rhode Island State Senate in the late
28 1960's after graduating from Law School. Though his bid was unsuccessful, his passion for
29 politics continued as an integral part of many successful city and state campaigns for some of his
30 closest friends including the campaigns for former Warwick Mayor and Governor Philip W. Noel
31 and former Warwick Mayor Joseph W. Walsh. He was an invaluable mentor to his children and
32 was proud and honored to assist his daughter Bethany Furtado in her successful elections to the
33 Warwick School Committee, as well as his daughter Erin Lynch Prata in her successful elections
34 to the Rhode Island State Senate District 31; and

1 WHEREAS, For John, there was nothing more important than his family. John and Pat
2 enjoyed hosting family holidays and many summer weekends at their Warwick home surrounded
3 by his children and their families, relatives and friends. John and Pat were avid golfers and spent
4 time traveling with some of their dearest friends to golf courses throughout Rhode Island, Florida
5 and Ireland; and

6 WHEREAS, An avid supporter of Warwick Public Schools and Warwick Youth
7 Athletics, John worked behind the scenes donating his time and raising money during the 70's,
8 80's and 90's for many organizations, especially Toll Gate High School, the St. Gregory's Girls
9 Softball program, the Kent County YMCA swim team, the Warwick PAL Football and Baseball
10 programs, and Special Olympics RI. John was proud to coach his sons' Warwick PAL Football
11 and St. Gregory's Baseball teams; now, therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
13 Providence Plantations hereby expresses its deepest condolences to the Lynch Family on the
14 passing of John D. Lynch, Esquire; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
16 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mrs. Patricia M. Lynch and Family.

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