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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF ERNEST P. BAPTISTA,
JR.

Introduced By: Senators Gallo, Ruggerio, McCaffrey, Goodwin, and Pearson

Date Introduced: December 17, 2020

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Ernest P. Baptista, Jr., 70, of Cranston, passed away unexpectedly at
2 home on Saturday, December 5, 2020. Ernie was the son of the late Ernest & Carmela Baptista,
3 formerly of North Providence. He is survived by his loving family including his wife, Sharon
4 Baptista (Williams), his daughter, Jennifer A. Baptista of Warwick, his son, Peter A. Baptista and
5 his fiancée, Carra Beth Constantine of Cranston, his brother, Raymond Baptista and his partner,
6 Danielle Amicarelli of North Providence, and many extended family and close friends; and

7 WHEREAS, Ernie was a proud graduate of La Salle Academy's Class of 1968 and
8 remained involved with the school for more than 50 years. A member of the La Salle Hall of
9 Fame and Chair of the Board of Regents, Ernie credited his education there as shaping his entire
10 life. His passion for La Salle Academy knew no bounds; and

11 WHEREAS, After earning a BS degree in Business Administration from Boston
12 University in 1973, Ernie began his career modestly as a life insurance agent. Soon after, in 1978,
13 he became a partner with Worrell, Passananti & Radoccia. Ernie was a master at his craft using
14 life insurance in his client's financial plan. He provided high level guidance to his clients with
15 custom designs for their personal and corporate strategies. Ernie co-founded Financial Architects,
16 Inc., and later formed Gencorp Insurance & Financial Services with his good friend and business
17 partner Robert G. Padula. He was a proud Member Firm and Principal of M Financial Group for
18 over 40 years; and

19 WHEREAS, Ernie's effusive spirit, his kindness, and his keen intellect were present in

1 every aspect of his life from home to work to his hobbies, like politics. Ernie was humble and
2 quiet in the rooms he frequented, yet when he spoke, his incredible wealth of knowledge and
3 insightful perspectives were soaked up by all who were present; and

4 WHEREAS, Ernie was an original thinker, thorough researcher, and master strategist in
5 all he did, but using these skills to craft political theories and strategies was his true passion.
6 Ernie never ran for office himself as he was most comfortable in the background, but he was
7 much sought after for his opinions. He was truly “in the know” on all aspects of the political
8 scene; and

9 WHEREAS, A life-long Democrat, Ernie was a supporter of local, state and national
10 candidates and he most enjoyed serving as an advisor, confidante, and sounding board to
11 politicians near and far. Closer to home, Ernie was a high school classmate and friend of United
12 States Senator Jack Reed, and had served as the campaign treasurer for United States Senator
13 Sheldon Whitehouse. Both men were among Ernie’s closest friends and he treasured their
14 relationships; and

15 WHEREAS, Ernie also created his own so-called political kitchen cabinet through
16 regular lunches and daily phone calls with his dearest friends: Ed McElroy, Joe Walsh, Don
17 Sweitzer, Joe Shekarchi, Joe Paolino, and the late Mark Weiner; and

18 WHEREAS, Ernie was also committed to his broader community. In addition to serving
19 La Salle Academy and serving on the Rhode Island Housing Resources Commission, Ernie made
20 it a priority to help those in need -- often and quietly. He also had time for everyone and “yes”
21 was his favorite answer; and

22 WHEREAS, Ernie loved to travel the world and his passport was full of stamps and just
23 as many stories. He habitually never unpacked his suitcase, just in case the next trip was to pop
24 up. On this trip to his final destination, his family is thrilled he’ll finally be able to unpack that
25 suitcase; and

26 WHEREAS, Ernie Baptista’s service to our state, his love for his family and community,
27 and his immense generosity of spirit will be long-remembered by his loving family, countless
28 friends, and the many people he lent a helping hand in times of need; now, therefore be it

29 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby expresses its deepest
30 condolences to the Baptista Family on the passing of Ernest P. Baptista, Jr.; and be it further

- 1 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
- 2 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Sharon Baptista and Family.

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