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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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

EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF MARY DURAND IRONS

Introduced By: Senators Ruggerio, Coyne, and F Lombardi

Date Introduced: January 04, 2022

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, It is with great sadness that this Senate has learned of the passing of Mary
2 D. Irons, beloved wife for fifty-two years to the Honorable William V. Irons, former President of
3 the Rhode Island Senate, and the devoted mother of three daughters, Joan Cronin and her husband
4 Pat, Sarah Irons, and Katherine Sudol and her husband, Brad; and

5 WHEREAS, Born in Hampton, Virginia, Mrs. Irons was a daughter of the late Camille
6 and Katherine Durand, and the sister of Barbara Traverse and her husband, Stan, COL (Retired),
7 Michael Durand, Joe Durand and his wife, Beth, and sister-in-law of Evelyn Bain. She had
8 graduated from Sacred Heart School, Bay View Academy, Katherine Gibbs School, and Rhode
9 Island College; and

10 WHEREAS, Mrs. Irons met her husband on a blind date that grew into a lifelong
11 devotion in both their family life and business. They had both been employed in the insurance
12 industry for many years, where she had served as the Executive Director of the Rhode Island Life
13 Underwriters Association; and

14 WHEREAS, In addition, Mrs. Irons was deeply committed to serving her community and
15 for forty-four years had worked with and developed everlasting friendships within the General
16 Federation of Women's Clubs, initially as one of the founding members of the Wampanoag
17 Women's Club in Rumford, and later holding myriad leadership positions in the General
18 Federation of Women's Clubs Rhode Island, including serving as State President, and on
19 numerous General Federation of Women's Clubs International committees. She had also worked
20 with State Senate and Rhode Island National Education Association staff members to lead the

1 Gingerbread Express program, an altruistic endeavor that donates gifts to children in need; and

2 WHEREAS, With her generous and loving personality, Mary Irons created and nurtured
3 a marriage that flourished and a home that was warm and welcoming. She doted on her family
4 and was especially proud to be "Grand Mary" to her grandchildren, Caroline Mary, Meredith,
5 Joshua, and Ryan Cronin, and Dylan Irons-Nobrega; and

6 WHEREAS, Mrs. Irons was a faithful parishioner of St. Margaret Church in Rumford.
7 She "loved to laugh and to dance," travel with her husband throughout the nation and the world,
8 and spend time with her beloved family and friends. And although she had faced Parkinson's
9 disease over the last decade, she continued to live her life with passion and determination, and she
10 will be dearly missed; now, therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby extends deepest
12 condolences on the passing of Mary Durand Irons; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
14 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Honorable Williams Irons and Family.

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