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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE NEIL A.
CORKERY

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Blazejewski, McNamara, Chippendale,
Kennedy, Edwards, Cruz, Potter, Handy, and Bennett

Date Introduced: January 02, 2024

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, It is with deep sadness that this House has learned of the passing of Neil A.
2 Corkery of North Kingstown. He was born in Lowell, Massachusetts, the son of the late James
3 and Anne Corkery, and was the loving husband of Maureen Corkery for 57 years; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Corkery was a teacher by profession who served the citizens and
5 schoolchildren of Providence with the utmost devotion and abiding integrity for thirty years as
6 both a teacher and as an Assistant Superintendent. He cared deeply about every single pupil in his
7 classrooms and was a trusted and valued mentor to many youngsters and had an enormously
8 positive impact on their lives; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Corkery was elected to serve in the Rhode Island House of
10 Representatives in 1984, an office he held for eight years. He was widely admired by his
11 colleagues for his tireless work ethic and his vast knowledge on issues pertaining to education,
12 health care and substance abuse. In recognition of his leadership on these issues, he was
13 appointed Chairman of the House Committee on Health, Education and Welfare, and the Long-
14 Term Care Coordinating Council; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Corkery described himself as a "Friend of Bill W.", who battled against
16 and overcame his own substance abuse addiction. As a member of the Rhode Island General
17 Assembly, he secured the necessary funding to create a rehabilitation center for young men, a
18 facility that was named in his honor. He also served as the Executive Director of the Drug and
19 Alcohol Treatment Center of Rhode Island, and as the Associate Director of Government Affairs

1 at Brown University, where he organized the Brown University/Providence Journal Public Affairs
2 Conference; and

3 WHEREAS, In his free time, Mr. Corker was an avid book collector who loved reading,
4 particularly books authored by famed writer John Updike. He most enjoyed spending time with
5 his family and many friends and had fun taking his dog, Sadie, to Pastiche in Providence and
6 Shayna's Place in Wickford; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Corkery was a kind and gentle soul who always put his family and
8 serving others first in his life. He helped countless people throughout his life and he truly was the
9 epitome of the dedicated public servant; and

10 WHEREAS, In addition to his wife, Maureen, he was the devoted father of Michael
11 Corkery and the late Christopher Corkery, grandfather to Eamon Corkery and his wife, Emily,
12 and also leaves behind his sister, Marie Troy, and nieces, nephews and in-laws. He was the
13 brother of the late Anne Corkery; now, therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
15 expresses its deepest condolences on the passing of the Honorable Neil A. Corkery; and be it
16 further

17 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
18 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Maureen Corkery and Family.

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