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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXTENDING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF ELEANOR M. SKENYON

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Craven, McEntee,
McNamara, Vella-Wilkinson, Corvese, Azzinaro, and Solomon

Date Introduced: January 04, 2024

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, It is with sadness that this House of Representatives has learned of the
2 passing of Eleanor M. Skenyon, the beloved wife of John Skenyon, and the cherished mother of
3 John Skenyon, our friend and the former House of Representatives Chief of Staff, Leo Skenyon,
4 and her daughter, Mary-Ellen; and

5 WHEREAS, Mrs. Skenyon was born in Tignish, Prince Edward Island, Canada, to
6 Francis and Mary Barbara Gaudet, the fifth of six children, which included her siblings, Gus,
7 Ang, Joe, Emmeline, and Alma. As a young girl, her family moved to Rhode Island where she
8 graduated from Holy Name School and St. Xavier's Academy; and

9 WHEREAS, Upon graduation from high school, Mrs. Skenyon had been recruited for a
10 position as a commercial artist because of her artistic talents, but chose to attend Rhode Island
11 College, where she had been awarded a scholarship, and became an elementary school teacher.
12 She subsequently became a supervisor in the Providence School system, and continued her
13 education, earning a Master's Degree in Education. Her career in education culminated with
14 several years as the Vice Principal of the Henry Barnard School attached to Rhode Island
15 College; and

16 WHEREAS, Above all else in her life, Mrs. Skenyon was devoted to her family. Upon
17 marrying her husband John in 1943, the couple made their home in Providence and together they
18 started their family, eventually moving to North Providence, where her husband sadly passed in
19 1969. In the early 1990s, she moved to Narragansett, where she found comfort, peace, and
20 fulfilment living by the ocean; and

1 WHEREAS, Never one to remain idle, after retiring, Mrs. Skenyon and a fellow teacher
2 owned and operated “The Teacher’s Room,” a charming school supply store in Johnston. She
3 also resumed her painting and drawing, creating wonderful watercolors, seascapes and scenes of
4 the Narragansett area, which were featured in numerous exhibits, including several shows
5 presented by the South County Art Association in Kingston. Throughout her life she had also
6 been a devout Catholic and was a devoted communicant of Saint Veronica’s Chapel in
7 Narragansett for many decades; and

8 WHEREAS, In addition to her children, Mrs. Skenyon is survived by her daughter-in-
9 law, Margaret, her beloved grandchildren, Stephanie, Matthew, and Heather Skenyon, and
10 Heather’s daughter, great-granddaughter Addison Guthrie, Justin Skenyon, Caitlin Terwilliger
11 and her husband Ed and their daughter, great-granddaughter Sophie Terwilliger, and Daniel,
12 Tatiana, Markian, and Alexander Martynetz, as well as many loving nieces and nephews. She was
13 predeceased by her son-in-law, Myron Martynetz, and her nephew, Charles Sweeney; and

14 WHEREAS, Eleanor Skenyon was blessed with a long and glorious life that spanned
15 more than 103 active and joyous years, surrounded by a loving family and many friends, and she
16 will be dearly missed by all; now, therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
18 extends deepest condolences and sympathy to the family and friends of Eleanor M. Skenyon; and
19 be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and herby is authorized and directed to
21 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to John Skenyon and Family, Leo Skenyon and
22 Family, and Mary-Ellen Martynetz and Family.

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