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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXTENDING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF RICHARD P. BACCARI

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Tanzi, Chippendale, J. Lombardi, McEntee, Diaz, Kennedy, Fellela, and Shallcross Smith
Date Introduced: April 09, 2024

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, It is with sadness that this House has learned of the passing of Richard P.
2 Baccari, the devoted husband to the love of his life, Susanne Baccari for sixty-one years, and the
3 loving father of Sherri Baccari, Kim Baccari, Susan Baccari and her husband, Chris
4 Varrecchione, Daria Baccari, Richard Baccari II and his wife, Ashley Baccari; and

5 WHEREAS, Born and raised in the Eagle Park neighborhood of Providence, Mr. Baccari
6 was a son of the late Philip and Emma Baccari, and the brother of Barbara Pieper and her
7 husband, Robert, and Philip Baccari and his wife, Christine; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Baccari, affectionately known as “Big Papa”, was the very proud
9 grandfather of Alessandro, Dimitri, Antonio, Giancarlo, Isabella, Tiara, Richard III, Joseph,
10 Corey, and the late Nicholas. Blessed with a large extended family, he was also the uncle of
11 many nieces and nephews, and the proud Master of Winston, his English Retriever; and

12 WHEREAS, While attending Mount Pleasant High School, he met his wife, Susanne,
13 who became his top priority and the star of the show throughout his lifetime, and together they
14 raised their children. As a dad, he ran a very tight ship, where missing a Sunday dinner was not
15 an option, but where kindness, laughter and love were always in abundance; and

16 WHEREAS, In 1977, the Baccari family moved to a newly built home in Narragansett,
17 and Sundays continued to be his favorite day of the week because it was a time to gather his
18 children and grandchildren around the dining table, after spending the day at the nearby rocks
19 catching crabs, building campfires, telling stories, or searching for elusive bobcats; and

20 WHEREAS, From a young age, Mr. Baccari’s industrious nature shone through. A born

1 entrepreneur and astute businessman, he began with a double paper route at the age of 10, and
2 starting at “Double Zero”, developed myriad endeavors into successful enterprises throughout his
3 lifetime. He initially purchased Desmond Auto Body in 1960, which he grew into arguably the
4 best auto repair shop in the State, and subsequently founded the Rhode Island Auto Body
5 Association, where he served as President for many years; and

6 WHEREAS, Never one to rest on his laurels, Mr. Baccari soon turned his attention to real
7 estate development, and founded Downing Corporation in 1969. The company soon became one
8 of the most successful real estate operations in Rhode Island, building nearly 3000 homes,
9 including the Louisquisset condominiums, over 20 shopping centers, the first parking garage at
10 TF Green Airport, and renovations to numerous historic buildings in Providence. His renowned
11 redevelopment style soon became the model for outdoor shopping center development throughout
12 New England; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1977, Mr. Baccari, together with his friend and partner Vincenzo Iema,
14 opened the always wait-listed Capriccio Restaurant. Immensely proud of his Italian American
15 heritage, he was the owner and editor of the Italian Echo newspaper for many years, was a
16 devoted member of the Aurora Civic Association, and was awarded the Italian-American man of
17 the year in 1989 by UNITAM; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1993, Mr. Baccari founded Churchill & Banks, where he worked side-by-
19 side with his son on development projects in Florida, North Carolina and New England. His work
20 ethic and drive were second to none, and his honor and integrity were the foundation of his
21 business principles; and

22 WHEREAS, Richard Baccari had a generous, kind and gentle heart, was always a man of
23 his word, was a loyal friend and trusted advisor to many, and was the loving Patriarch of his
24 devoted family, and he is dearly missed; now, therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
26 extends deepest condolences on the passing of Richard P. Baccari; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
28 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mrs. Susanne Baccari and Family.

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