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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF VARTAN GREGORIAN,
NATIONALLY ACCLAIMED HISTORIAN AND PHILANTHROPIST

Introduced By: Senator Gayle L. Goldin

Date Introduced: April 28, 2021

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, It is with utmost sadness that this House has learned of the passing of
2 Vartan Gregorian, noted scholar and philanthropic leader, beloved husband of fifty-eight years to
3 the late Clare Russell Gregorian, devoted father of Vahé Gregorian and his wife, Cindy, Raffi
4 Gregorian, and Dareh Gregorian and his wife, Maggie, and the proud grandfather of Juan,
5 Maximus, Sophie, Miri, and Dashiell; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Gregorian was born to Armenian parents in Tabriz, Iran, and was the
7 brother of Ojik Arakelian. Although English-language limited, he immigrated to the United
8 States in 1956 to study history and the humanities at Stanford University. His experiences and
9 transition during these years became the foundation and inspiration for his life's work; and

10 WHEREAS, From 1981 to 1989, Mr. Gregorian served as President of the New York
11 Public Library where he successfully revitalized and financially stabilized the institution. In
12 1986, he was a member of the inaugural class of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor awardees, and
13 from 1989 through 1997, he served as President of Brown University, where he was acclaimed
14 for his efforts to strengthen research, teaching and public service activities at the University, as
15 well as tripling its endowment; and

16 WHEREAS, Beginning in 1997, Mr. Gregorian led the Carnegie Corporation of New
17 York where he was lauded as "a devoted and tireless leader an extraordinary champion of
18 education, immigration, and international peace and security"; and

19 WHEREAS, Respected and revered for his myriad accomplishments, Mr. Gregorian was

1 a noted author, received dozens of honorary doctorates, and was hailed around the world as a
2 historian and a philanthropist. He received awards from the French, Italian, Austrian, and
3 Portuguese governments, and was the recipient of the National Humanities Medal in 1998, and
4 the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our nation's highest civil award, in 2004. In addition, former
5 New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg credited him with helping rebuild the city after the 9/11
6 terrorist attacks; and

7 WHEREAS, Vartan Gregorian was a paradigm of the very best leadership and
8 humanitarian qualities, and his immense intellect, generosity, wit and sense of humor, and his
9 innate ability to encourage and challenge made him an unparalleled teacher, mentor, and
10 inspiration for many, and he 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 Vartan Gregorian; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
14 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Vahé Gregorian, Raffi Gregorian, and Dareh
15 Gregorian.

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