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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE SENATOR
MICHAEL J. DAMIANI

Introduced By: Senators Ruggerio, McCaffrey, Goodwin, Lawson, and Conley

Date Introduced: January 22, 2019

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, The Honorable Michael J. Damiani, a man who faithfully served our state
2 and the citizens of East Providence as both a police officer and Rhode Island State Senator, sadly
3 passed away on September 8, 2018. He was the beloved husband of Sharlene Damiani; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Damiani was born in Providence, a son of the late Louis and Cecilia
5 Damiani. He was a lifelong resident of the Riverside neighborhood in East Providence. He
6 served as a police officer for the City of East Providence for seventeen years, rising to the rank of
7 Sergeant before retiring in 1996. He was a beloved member of the Department and mentored
8 many young officers and continued to support the police department long after his retirement; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1996, Mr. Damiani was elected to serve the citizens of East Providence in
10 the Rhode Island State Senate, a position he held for ten years until his retirement in 2006. As a
11 State Senator, he played a vital role in the establishment of the Rhode Island State Registry of Sex
12 Offenders, and was a significant force in the passing of laws mandating that health insurers
13 provide coverage for Lyme Disease, and mandating defibrillators for all Rhode Island College
14 buildings and police cars. Senator Damiani rose to the position of Deputy Majority Leader; and

15 WHEREAS, Senator Damiani held a variety of public safety positions. He was a firearms
16 instructor, a sniper on the SWAT Team, an arson investigator, a Dive Master who specialized in
17 underwater body recoveries, and was responsible for starting the Search and Rescue Team for the
18 East Providence Police Department. He was also a fervent believer in the Second Amendment, a
19 Patriot Member of the NRA, and a Range Master at the Massasoit Gun Club; and

1 WHEREAS, Senator Damiani was also a member of numerous civic organizations
2 including the East Providence Fraternal Order of Police, the Riverside Bishop Hickey Knights of
3 Columbus, the Rhode Island Bomb Squad and the National Association of State Boaters Law
4 Administrators. In his free time, he was the consummate outdoorsman who loved fishing,
5 hunting, and boating; and

6 WHEREAS, The number one priority in Senator Damiani's life was his family. He was a
7 vital part of his family's life and was always there for his wife, children, and grandchildren,
8 whether they needed hugs, help with homework or to have a carburetor fixed; and

9 WHEREAS, In addition to Sharlene, his wife of forty years, Senator Damiani leaves
10 behind his children, Michael Damiani, Jr., and his wife, Isabel, Jennifer L. Damiani, and Christine
11 M. Damiani. He also leaves behind his grandchildren, Evelyn, Jocelyn, Lucas and Joseph
12 Damiani, a brother, Steven Damiani and his wife, Linda, a sister-in-law, Elaine Damiani, and
13 several nieces and nephews; now, therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
15 hereby expresses its deepest condolences on the passing of the Honorable Senator Michael J.
16 Damiani; and be it 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 Mrs. Sharlene Damiani and Family.

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