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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXTENDING SINCERE CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF DR. KENNETH R.
WALKER, SR.

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

Date Introduced: February 13, 2019

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, It is with deep sadness that this Senate has learned of the passing of Dr.
2 Kenneth R. Walker, Sr., beloved husband to Gail Walker for 63 years, the devoted father of three
3 children, Michele Walker-Angell and her husband, David, Leanne Walker-Beard and her
4 husband, Jeffrey, and Kenneth R. Walker, Jr., and the proud grandfather of six grandchildren; and

5 WHEREAS, The retired Chairman and longest serving member of the state Parole Board,
6 Dr. Walker had served a total of 34 years on the Board and passionately believed in giving people
7 a second chance in life; and

8 WHEREAS, Kenneth Walker was born and raised in the City of East Providence, the son
9 of the late Frank Walker and Lillian Walker, and the brother of Arline Walker, Frank R. Walker,
10 III, and his wife, Jane, and the late Leonard E. Walker and Ronald Walker. He graduated from
11 Providence College and continued his education, earning his M.Ed. from Rhode Island College,
12 and a Ph.D. from Boston University. He was a teacher, coach, guidance counselor, and
13 administrator in the East Providence public school system and subsequently became a professor
14 of Education at Rhode Island College and Johnson & Wales University; and

15 WHEREAS, During his tenure at Rhode Island College, Dr. Walker directed the Teacher
16 Corps, a program geared towards raising the quality of education for low-income students and
17 served as Director of urban education; and

18 WHEREAS, Earning the love and respect of his peers, Dr. Walker had received the 1980
19 NAACP Freedom Fund Award in Education and the National Alumni Association's Exemplary

1 Citizenship Award in 1993. He was also a former president of Big Brothers of Rhode Island, and
2 had served on the president's council for many years; and

3 WHEREAS, In 2008, the Dr. Kenneth R. Walker Family Scholarship Fund was
4 established in his name to provide financial support for African- American students majoring in
5 education at Providence College; and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. Walker had also been a referee in the Interscholastic League, and was
7 one of the first African-Americans to referee high-school basketball games in Rhode Island, as
8 well as at Atlantic 10 and Big East college games. At heart, he was a true Friar who often
9 traveled with the team and is remembered by many at PC "for his work as a mentor to countless
10 faculty, staff, and students over the years"; and

11 WHEREAS, Dr. Kenneth Walker devoted his life to helping others. He was a genuine
12 and dignified man and a true leader who made a significant difference in the lives of so many
13 people at Providence College and in the State of Rhode Island and he will he truly missed; now,
14 therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
16 hereby extends its deepest sympathies on the passing of Dr. Kenneth Walker; 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. Gail Walker and Family.

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