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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF MARY ANN EDWARDS

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Edwards,
McGaw, Cortvriend, Fogarty, Newberry, Tanzi, and Shallcross Smith
Date Introduced: January 09, 2025

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, It is with deep sadness that this House of Representatives has learned of the
2 passing of Mary Ann Edwards, who was the devoted wife of the late John "Duke" Edwards III for
3 56 years; and

4 WHEREAS, Mary Ann Edwards was born and raised in Newport, and was a part of the
5 heavily Irish fifth ward for many years. Mrs. Edwards was a 1952 graduate of St. Catherine's
6 Academy and worked for many years as a telephone operator for New England Telephone. She
7 and her husband lived in various areas, including Cape Cod, Maine, upstate New York and
8 Maryland, before they returned to Rhode Island, and Aquidneck Island specifically, to establish
9 the very successful J.G. Edwards Construction Company, which they ran together for more than
10 40 years; and

11 WHEREAS, Mary Ann Edwards was also a distinguished public servant who at all times
12 served her constituents and the taxpayers with abiding integrity. She was elected to the
13 Portsmouth Town Council in 1994, serving for 14 years, including serving as the Council
14 President for a couple of terms. She was a tireless advocate for her constituents and helped to
15 make Portsmouth a better place in which to live and do business; and

16 WHEREAS, In her free time, Mrs. Edwards enjoyed needlepointing, gardening, and was
17 an avid reader who particularly enjoyed reading the New York Sunday Times every week. She
18 also was an active member of the Ida Lewis Yacht Club for more than 50 years and enjoyed
19 regularly cruising with her late husband John Edwards III to Maine and the Bahamas on their
20 sailboat Airedale; and

1 WHEREAS, Mrs. Edwards was a devoted wife and mother who always put her loved
2 ones first in her life. Mary Ann Edwards leaves behind the Honorable John "Jay" Edwards IV and
3 his wife, Donna, James Edwards and his wife, Mary, and her seven grandchildren, John Edwards
4 and his wife, Brittany, Kelsey Coletta, and her husband, David, Mae Edwards, Daniel Edwards
5 and his wife, Marisa, Matthew Edwards and his wife, Tatiana, Molly Mitchell and her husband,
6 Ryan, and Colleen Moore and her husband, William. She also leaves behind her great-
7 granddaughters Amelia, Sloan, and Nora, as well as her brother and sister-in-law Philip and
8 Diane Tobin, her sister Arleen Brown, and her sisters-in-law Estelle Tobin, Lizbeth Tobin, and
9 Diane Harrington, as well as many nieces and nephews. In addition to her husband of 56 years,
10 John Edwards III, Mary Ann Tobin was also predeceased by her sister, Joan Reis, brothers John
11 and James Tobin, brothers-in-law George Reis and Jack Brown, and nephews Christopher Brown
12 and Patrick Tobin, as well as her parents, John Tobin and Mary Tobin and her stepmother, Mary
13 (Kennedy) Tobin. Mary Ann Tobin will also be sorely missed by Toby, her Portuguese water dog
14 and always faithful friend.

15 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
16 expresses condolences to the Edwards Family on the passing of Mary Ann Edwards; and be it
17 further

18 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
19 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable John Edwards IV, and James
20 Edwards.

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