

2023 -- H 5028

LC000335

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF ANGELA PANICHAS

Introduced By: Representatives Messier, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Brien, Kennedy, Fenton-Fung, Shallcross Smith, O'Brien, and Fogarty

Date Introduced: January 10, 2023

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS; It is with deep sadness that this House has learned of the passing of Angela  
2 Panichas. She was born in Clinton, Massachusetts, and resided for most of her life in Pawtucket  
3 and Lincoln. She was the daughter of the late Stanley and Nikki Chiavaras, and was the beloved  
4 wife of the late Honorable George Panichas, a decorated World War II hero, who was elected to  
5 the Rhode Island House of Representatives in 1970, and served his constituents and our State  
6 with integrity and honor for fourteen years; and

7 WHEREAS, Mrs. Panichas was a devoted wife and mother who created a nurturing and  
8 loving home for her husband, children and grandchildren. She was a wonderful cook and the  
9 delectable aromas that came from her kitchen on a daily basis still bring smiles and joyful  
10 memories to her loved ones who will never forget the joy in which she lived her life, her  
11 enthusiasm and big hugs, and her offering sage advice and words of love and encouragement. She  
12 was always there for the big moments in her children's lives; and

13 WHEREAS, Mrs. Panichas was a woman of deep faith, devoted to the Greek Orthodox  
14 church and community. She was a longtime member and volunteer for the Virgin Mary Greek  
15 Orthodox Church of Pawtucket. Over the decades she served in myriad roles and positions,  
16 including as chairperson to countless events and functions. She was also a Sunday School teacher  
17 and superintendent of its PTA, an advisor to the G.O.Y.A. youth group, and the founder of the  
18 church's first Greek dance troupe. Mrs. Panichas also served as Past President of St. Barbara's  
19 Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, and board member of the Metropolis of Boston  
20 Diocese Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society. In addition, she was a longtime volunteer

1 to Philoxenia House, a past member of her Church's Parish Council, and served as co-chair of the  
2 Church's 75th and 100th Anniversary celebrations; and

3 WHEREAS, Mrs. Panichas devoted much of her time in service to other community  
4 endeavors. She began her volunteer career as a founding member of the Henry J. Winters School  
5 Parent Teachers Association in Pawtucket, also serving as Board President and later on the State  
6 PTA Board. She also served on the Parents Association Board for the Moses Brown School in  
7 Providence, and volunteered her service on the Friends Committee of the Providence Performing  
8 Arts Center where she cherished her friendship with the late Sylvia Dario. In honor and  
9 recognition of her decades of service and many accomplishments, Mrs. Panichas was honored in  
10 1988 by the Assumption Parish as an inaugural recipient of the Metropolis of Boston Ministry  
11 Award, and was most recently honored in 2022 at the Assumption Gala for the Greats; and

12 WHEREAS, Mrs. Panichas is survived by her children, Denise Panichas, Joan Milas and  
13 her husband, Matthew, George Panichas Jr. and his wife, Annastasia, was the devoted  
14 grandmother of Angela and Michael Milas, George III and Melina Panichas, and was the doting  
15 great-grandmother of Ameliana and Alessandro Hernandez. She also leaves behind her niece and  
16 nephew, Maria Kattke Palmieri and Michael Panichas, her sister-in-law, Eleanor Panichas, her  
17 close friend, Tina Demopolus, and many friends; now, therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
19 extends its deepest condolences to the Panichas Family on the passing of Angela Panichas; and be  
20 it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
22 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Denise Panichas, Joan Milas, and George  
23 Panichas Jr.

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