

2021 -- H 6094

LC002022

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

HOUSE RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND CAREER OF RUSS LIMBAUGH, THE GOAT OF
CONSERVATIVE TALK RADIO

Introduced By: Representatives Morgan, Nardone, and Roberts

Date Introduced: March 03, 2021

Referred To: House Special Legislation

1 WHEREAS, Rush Hudson Limbaugh, III, was born on January 12, 1951, in Cape
2 Girardeau, Missouri, into a highly regarded local family. His paternal grandfather, Rush Hudson
3 Limbaugh, served as a U.S. ambassador to India under President Dwight D. Eisenhower, an uncle
4 served as a federal judge during Ronald Reagan's presidency; and his conservative father, Rush
5 Hudson Limbaugh, II, worked as an attorney; and

6 WHEREAS, Despite the disapproval of his family, from the age of 8, Rush Limbaugh
7 knew he wanted to pursue a career in radio. During high school, he landed his first radio job, and
8 using the pseudonym "Rusty Sharpe," he worked as a DJ for the local station KGMO which was
9 co-owned by his father; and

10 WHEREAS, Upon graduating high school, Mr. Limbaugh briefly attended Southeast
11 Missouri State University but left the school in 1971, after one year of enrollment, in order to
12 pursue a career in radio. He had trouble keeping a position and was fired from stations in
13 Missouri and Pennsylvania for being too controversial as news commentator. He later recalled,
14 "My whole family thought I was destined for failure"; and

15 WHEREAS, In the mid-1980s, following a stint as a ticket salesman for Major League
16 Baseball's Kansas City Royals, Mr. Limbaugh landed a job as an on-air host at KFBK in
17 Sacramento, California, with the help of a radio executive friend. While there, he took over
18 Morton Downey, Jr.'s slot, and met with success when his ratings surpassed his predecessor's.
19 Less than a year later, he became known as Sacramento's top radio host; and

1 WHEREAS, In 1987, the repeal of the Fairness Doctrine ultimately paved the way for
2 Mr. Limbaugh's now-distinct, politically conservative radio style to take shape. Not long after, the
3 on-air host for KFBK left the station for a position at the ABC Radio Network, bringing his
4 newfound fame with him, as well as a reputation for having strong, conservative opinions; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Limbaugh is considered one of the most influential media figures in
6 American history and has played a consequential role in conservative politics since "The Rush
7 Limbaugh Show" began in 1988. Perched behind his Golden EIB (Excellence in Broadcasting)
8 Microphone, Mr. Limbaugh spent over three decades as arguably both the most beloved and
9 polarizing person in American media; and

10 WHEREAS, The program that began 33 years ago on national syndication with only 56
11 radio stations grew to be the most listened to radio show in the United States, airing on more than
12 600 stations. Up to 27 million people tuned in on a weekly basis and Mr. Limbaugh lovingly
13 referred to his passionate fan base as "Dittoheads," as they would often say "ditto" when agreeing
14 with the iconic radio host; and

15 WHEREAS, In addition to his success on the radio, Mr. Limbaugh made regular
16 appearances as a political commentator on various TV programs, and authored numerous articles
17 and books, including the 1992's best-selling *The Way Things Ought to Be* and 1993's *See, I Told*
18 *You So*; and

19 WHEREAS, "It's my job, it's my life, it's my career, it's my passion," Mr. Limbaugh once
20 said about his politically charged career as a radio host, commentator and writer. "I'm doing what
21 I love. I think I'm doing what I was born to do. I have no specific goals from this point forward. I
22 never have had specific goals. I've always thought, 'I know generally what I want to do. I want to
23 be in media, I want to be in radio.' It's what I love. It's what I do best. And I'm open to all
24 opportunities that come my way"; and

25 WHEREAS, Rush Limbaugh was inducted into the Radio Hall of Fame in 1993, and the
26 National Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 1998. Additionally, he's a five-time winner
27 of the National Association of Broadcasters Marconi Award for Excellence in Syndicated and
28 Network Broadcasting; and

29 WHEREAS, In February of 2020, Mr. Limbaugh revealed that he had been diagnosed
30 with advanced lung cancer. Shortly afterward, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom
31 during President Donald Trump's State of the Union address; and

32 WHEREAS, In his final radio broadcast of 2020, Rush Limbaugh thanked his listeners
33 and supporters, revealing with a grateful heart at the time that he outlived his prognosis. On
34 February 17, 2021, he lost his battle with advanced lung cancer; now, therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
2 commemorates the life and career of Russ Limbaugh, the Goat Of Conservative Talk Radio; and
3 be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
5 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mrs. Kathryn Limbaugh.

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