

**2022 -- H 7010**

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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022**

**H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N**

**EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF RICHARD P. KEARNS**

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Kennedy, Edwards, Casey,  
Phillips, Newberry, Filippi, Messier, and Craven

Date Introduced: January 06, 2022

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 the Honorable Richard P. “Dick” Kearns, a long-time public servant who served the  
3 State of Rhode Island, the citizens of Woonsocket and the Rhode Island General Assembly with  
4 integrity and excellence for more than thirty years; and

5           WHEREAS, Mr. Kearns was born in Woonsocket and had lived in North Smithfield for  
6 many years. He was a graduate of Georgetown University and Georgetown Law School and was  
7 an accomplished attorney who also served the City of Woonsocket with distinction as a City  
8 Solicitor and as a member of the Rhode Island House of Representatives from 1975 to 1986. Mr.  
9 Kearns also served our nation with honor as a member of the Rhode Island National Guard’s  
10 243rd Engineer Battalion; and

11           WHEREAS, Richard Kearns served the Rhode Island General Assembly as Speaker John  
12 Harwood’s Chief Legal Counsel and Director of the Joint Committee on Legislative Services  
13 (JCLS) from 1993 to 2002, and also served Speaker William Murphy from 2003 to 2010 as Chief  
14 Legal Counsel. He was highly regarded for his tireless work ethic, his political acumen and his  
15 wise legal advice; and

16           WHEREAS, Mr. Kearns also served as the Secretary of the Woonsocket Democratic City  
17 Committee, Past President of the Woonsocket Varsity Club, and was former counsel to the  
18 Woonsocket Board of Tenant Affairs. He also served as a member of the Commission to Study  
19 Criminal Procedure, the Rhode Island and Woonsocket Bar Associations, and the Woonsocket  
20 Rotary Club. In his spare time, Mr. Kearns was an avid skier and a passionate car enthusiast and

1 fan of all things related to auto racing; now, therefore be it

2 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
3 expresses its deepest condolences to the Kearns Family on the passing of Mr. Richard P. Kearns;  
4 and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
6 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Kearns Family.

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