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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF JOSEPH J. KIRBY

Introduced By: Representatives Azzinaro, Kennedy, Shekarchi, Blazejewski,
Chippendale, Fellela, Tanzi, Shallcross Smith, Fogarty, and Ajello

Date Introduced: January 04, 2024

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, It is with deep sadness that this House has learned of the passing of Joseph
2 J. Kirby, the beloved husband of Katherine Hoxsie; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Kirby was born in Woonsocket, son of the late Charles and Genevieve
4 Kirby. He was a graduate of the College of the Holy Cross and the New England College of Law.
5 After college, he served our nation with honor and distinction as a member of the United States
6 Army; and

7 WHEREAS, After completing his military service obligations, Mr. Kirby went to work
8 for the Fiduciary Trust Company of Boston and later accepted a position with the Washington
9 Trust Company as an Investment Officer at which time he moved his family to Westerly; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Kirby worked for the Washington Trust Company for more than three
11 decades and thanks to his tireless work ethic, abiding integrity and stellar business acumen, he
12 steadily rose through the ranks, eventually serving as the Company's President, Chairman and
13 Chief Executive Officer. He played a significant role in the successful capital campaigns of the
14 Westerly Hospital, Westerly Library, the Ocean Community YMCA, the United Way and
15 Catholic Charities. He also chaired the campaigns for South County Community Action and the
16 YMCA 1993 campaign. He continued to serve the Washington Trust Company and the wider
17 community in retirement as a member of the bank, serving on its finance and executive
18 committees; and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Kirby was always active in community and civic affairs and gave much
20 of his time in support of numerous charitable organizations. He served on the Westerly Hospital

1 Board of Trustees for 17 years, and was a board member of the Westerly Library, Wilcox Park,
2 Narragansett Electric and the New England Bankcard Association. In addition, he donated his
3 time and many talents in support of the Chorus for Westerly's Summer Pops Concert, and helped
4 to establish the Westerly Downtown Task Force. He was a member of the Rhode Island and
5 American Bankers' Associations, the Rhode Island Commodores and Westerly Yacht Club, and
6 true to his Irish roots, he was a long-time member and past President of the Friendly Sons of St.
7 Patrick; and

8 WHEREAS, In his retirement, Mr. Kirby became a passionate golfer, taking many
9 golfing vacations and was a member of the Stonington Country Club. He was also a passionate
10 sports fan who diligently followed all of the Boston teams, and enjoyed swimming and was a
11 member of the Seaside Beach Club; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Kirby was a man of deep faith. He was a communicant of St. Pius X
13 Church and served numerous parish ministries and committees. He also coached the Church's
14 CYO Basketball team. Foremost in Mr. Kirby's life was always his family and he was, at all
15 times, a devoted and loving husband and father; and

16 WHEREAS, In addition to his wife, Katherine, Mr. Kirby leaves behind his children,
17 Kathleen Kulig and her husband, Robert, Michael Kirby and his wife, Sharon, and Ann Kirby. He
18 also leaves behind his grandchildren, Kyle and Megan Kirby, and his wife Katherine's children,
19 Kenyon Murphy and his wife, Karen, and Katherine Gardner and her husband, Bryant. Mr. Kirby
20 was also the stepfather to Cole and Cooper Murphy and leaves behind several nieces and
21 nephews. He was predeceased by his first wife, Lillian Kirby, and his siblings, Charles and Paul
22 Kirby, and Anne Hope Kirby-Overmyer; now therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That this House of Representative of the State of Rhode Island hereby
24 expresses its deepest condolences on the passing of Joseph J. Kirby; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
26 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Katherine Hoxsie, Kathleen Kulig, Michael
27 Kirby, and Ann Kirby.

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