

2020 -- H 7418

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE THOMAS F.
FAY

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, McLaughlin, Costantino, Craven, and
McEntee

Date Introduced: February 04, 2020

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 Thomas F. Fay, former Rhode Island Supreme Court Chief Justice. He
3 was the devoted husband of Paulette Fay for fifty-four years, and loving father of Kelly Ann Fay,
4 Thomas Fay, Esq., and his wife, Melissa, and the very proud grandfather of Leah Pepin Fay, John
5 Silvia, Jr., and Madison Silvia; and

6 WHEREAS, Born in Lincoln, Thomas Fay was a son of the late Joseph and Ethel Fay,
7 and the brother of Patricia Jarbeau and the late Joseph Fay, Jr. He grew up in Lincoln's
8 Saylesville Highlands neighborhood and was a graduate of Central Falls High School, where he
9 was an outstanding baseball player, often pitching no hitters. Continuing his education, he earned
10 his Bachelor's degree from Providence College, where he studied biology, and his Juris Doctor
11 from Boston University Law School; and

12 WHEREAS, Upon passing the Rhode Island Bar, Mr. Fay started his legal career with
13 Oster Espo Fay & Groff. In 1968, he was elected to the Rhode Island House of Representatives
14 from District 72, where he was named Chair of the House Judiciary Committee; and

15 WHEREAS, In 1976, Mr. Fay was sworn in as an Associate Justice of the Rhode Island
16 Family Court, where he championed many innovative improvements in the juvenile justice
17 system including a training manual and film to assist lawyers in child advocacy. In 1986, he was
18 named Chief Justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court, serving in that capacity until 1995; and

19 WHEREAS, Upon leaving the bench, Mr. Fay became involved with myriad altruistic

1 endeavors serving the community. He was a consultant to numerous profit and not-for-profit
2 entities throughout Rhode Island; and

3 WHEREAS, Thomas Fay possessed a caring and compassionate demeanor and was
4 widely respected by many in the legal community. He was blessed with the love of his family
5 and friends, and he will be profoundly missed by those who had the good fortune to be a part of
6 his vital and fulfilling life; now, therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
8 Providence Plantations hereby expresses its deepest sympathies on the passing of the Honorable
9 Thomas F. Fay. He will forever be remembered for his service to the people of Rhode Island in
10 both the Courts and the General Assembly; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
12 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mrs. Paulette Fay and Family.

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