

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE
KEVEN ALEXANDER MCKENNA

Introduced By: Representatives J Lombardi, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Hull, Costantino,
Filippi, Kennedy, McGaw, Ackerman, and Shallcross Smith

Date Introduced: March 10, 2022

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, It is with sadness that this House has learned of the passing of the
2 Honorable Keven Alexander McKenna, a highly respected retired Providence Municipal Court
3 Judge and former Rhode Island State Representative. He was the beloved father of Sean
4 McKenna, Christopher McKenna and his wife, Maureen, Damian McKenna and his wife, Jessica,
5 Mary-Kathryn Aranda and her husband, Victor, and Joseph McKenna, and the very proud
6 grandfather of eleven grandchildren, and one great-grandchild; and

7 WHEREAS, Born in the Town of Westerly, Mr. McKenna was the oldest son of the late
8 Eugene and Rita McKenna, and the brother of Marylen McKenna, Ward McKenna and his wife,
9 Mary Beth, Gregory McKenna and his wife, Maril, and Roberta Palmer and her husband, Bill. He
10 was a graduate of Westerly High School, and continued his education, earning his Bachelor's
11 degree from Georgetown University, an MPA degree from Syracuse University, and passed the
12 Foreign Service Officer Exam at Georgetown Law School; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. McKenna began his esteemed career in public service with his
14 appointment as the Special Assistant to the Secretary for Legislation under President Lyndon B.
15 Johnson's administration. He subsequently served as a legislative aide to U.S. Senator Claiborne
16 Pell, and as special counsel to Governor Philip W. Noel, and a Rhode Island Assistant Attorney
17 General; and

18 WHEREAS, In November of 1978, Mr. McKenna was elected to the Rhode Island House
19 of Representatives, where he served his Providence and North Providence constituents in District

1 10 for three terms. During his tenure in the House he championed passage of state laws for
2 handicapped and disabled and the Rhode Island CHIPs insurance program. He also led the
3 Providence Reform Coalition during the 1980s; and

4 WHEREAS, From 1984 through 1992, Mr. McKenna served as a Providence Municipal
5 Court Judge and from 1985 through 1986, he was President of the Rhode Island Constitutional
6 Convention; and

7 WHEREAS, In addition, Mr. McKenna was active in his community and with myriad
8 professional and social organizations including being a member of the Knights of Columbus and
9 The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, a member of the American Judges Association, Volunteer
10 Counsel to Silverlake Senior Citizens, the Harvey Clements Senior Citizens, Summit Avenue
11 School group, Providence Taxpayers Association, a member of Common Cause, and as a member
12 of the R.I. Mental Health Association. He was also a parishioner of Blessed Sacrament Church in
13 Providence, and an avid sports fan cheering for Providence College, Georgetown basketball,
14 Boston Red Sox, Boston Celtics, and New England Patriots; and

15 WHEREAS, Throughout his accomplished lifetime, the Honorable Keven McKenna was
16 a devoted family man, a respected jurist and lawyer, and "a tireless legal defender of all,
17 regardless of their financial or social status" and he will be dearly missed; now, therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
19 extends deepest sympathy on the passing of the Honorable Keven Alexander McKenna; and be it
20 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 Sean McKenna, Christopher McKenna, Damian
23 McKenna, Mary-Kathryn Aranda, and Joseph McKenna.

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