

2020 -- H 7995

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXTENDING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF FORMER RHODE ISLAND STATE  
SENATOR AND PARLIAMENTARIAN THE HONORABLE JOHN M. RONEY

Introduced By: Representatives Blazewski, Mattiello, Shekarchi, Ajello, and Williams

Date Introduced: March 11, 2020

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, It is with profound sadness and regret that this House has learned of the  
2 passing of the Honorable John M. Roney, a venerated former member of the Rhode Island Senate,  
3 a sagacious former Senate Parliamentarian, and an astute and well-respected attorney; and

4           WHEREAS, A native of Washington, DC, John Roney earned his undergraduate degree  
5 from Providence College and received his Juris Doctor from The Catholic University of America  
6 Columbus School of Law, which recognized him in 2004 with the Distinguished Alumni Award;  
7 and

8           WHEREAS, For the past four decades, Mr. Roney had made his home in Rhode Island,  
9 and was the beloved husband of Barbara Roney, father of Carley Roney, Christopher Roney, and  
10 Kristina Lowell, and the grandfather of many grandchildren. He loved the ocean and was an avid  
11 sailor and the proud owner of "Daphne" a 38' Alden Challenger sailboat; and

12           WHEREAS, Upon graduation from PC, Mr. Roney worked as a reporter for The Journal  
13 in its Cranston bureau. In 1983, he teamed up with civil-rights lawyer Lynette Labinger to form  
14 Roney & Labinger, championing civil-rights cases on behalf of Rhode Island's most vulnerable  
15 and representing clients before state and federal courts, and professional boards until his  
16 retirement in 2018; and

17           WHEREAS, In 1994, the Honorable John Roney was elected as State Senator for the  
18 Second District of Providence, an office he held for four terms. During his years with the Senate,  
19 he served as Vice-Chair of the Finance and Judiciary Committees and had sponsored significant

1 pieces of legislation, including a revision of the Uniform Commercial Code; and

2 WHEREAS, Noted for his sage advice, intellect and quick wit, in 2005, Mr. Roney  
3 returned to the Senate as its Parliamentarian. Over the years he was honored with numerous  
4 awards and distinctions including the 2018 Leadership Rhode Island (LRI) Volunteer Award for  
5 facilitating the General Assembly simulation and mock floor debate for almost every class since  
6 the early 1990s; and

7 WHEREAS, Involved in myriad professional and civic organizations, Mr. Roney was the  
8 recipient of the Community Service Award in 1995, and in 2003, was elected President of the RI  
9 Bar Association. In 2009, he was awarded the Public Service Programs Certificate of  
10 Appreciation for his tireless work with local charitable and civic organizations; and

11 WHEREAS, The Honorable John Roney leaves a legacy that will benefit Rhode Islanders  
12 for generations to come, and he will be greatly missed by all who had the good fortune to have  
13 loved him, served with him, or were the beneficiaries of his wisdom, humor and friendship; now,  
14 therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and  
16 Providence Plantations hereby offers its sincere condolences on the passing of the Honorable  
17 John M. Roney; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
19 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mrs. Barbara Roney and Family.

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