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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

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

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF PROFESSOR SCOTT W. NIXON

Introduced By: Representatives Naughton, Walsh, Valencia, Tanzi, and Ferri

Date Introduced: May 29, 2012

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, It is with deep sadness and regret that this House has learned of the passing
2 of Scott W. Nixon, a world leader in the study of how coastal and estuarine ecosystems work and
3 a highly respected Professor of Oceanography at the University of Rhode Island; and

4 WHEREAS, Professor Nixon earned his Bachelor's degree in Biology from the
5 University of Delaware and his Ph.D. in Botany-Ecology from the University of North Carolina-
6 Chapel Hill; and

7 WHEREAS, Professor Nixon joined the University of Rhode Island community in 1969.
8 His oceanography classes were notoriously difficult, but rewarded those who rose to the
9 challenge with the ability and determination to explore new avenues of thought and
10 understanding; and

11 WHEREAS, As a member of the University community and the oceanographic research
12 community for more than four decades, Professor Nixon had served as Director of Rhode Island
13 Sea Grant, Vice-Chair of a National Research Council committee on Everglades Restoration, and
14 the University of Rhode Island's UNESCO-Cousteau Chair of Coastal Ecology and Global
15 Assessment; and

16 WHEREAS, Earning professional acclaim in his field, Professor Nixon's research has
17 "helped define our understanding of marine ecosystems locally." He explored, compared, and
18 contrasted marine ecosystems around the world and would then use that knowledge "to challenge
19 himself to think in new ways and to challenge the scientific dogma of the times"; and

20 WHEREAS, Professor Nixon was honored with the Sea Grant Association (SGA)

1 Distinguished Service Award, given to select individuals in recognition of their outstanding
2 ability to further the Sea Grant mission, the New England Estuarine Research Society Award for
3 outstanding contributions to estuarine research, and the B. H. Ketchum Award for excellence in
4 coastal research from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, to name just a few; and

5 WHEREAS, The admiration and recognition of his peers also earned Professor Nixon
6 myriad professional titles and distinctions during the course of his career. He was a member of
7 the National Research Council's Ocean Studies Board, a national associate of the National
8 Academies of Science, Chair of the NRC committee to review the Florida Keys Carrying
9 Capacity Assessment Model, and member of the NRC committee to review the Louisiana Coastal
10 Restoration Plan. He was also the past Co-Editor-in-Chief of Estuaries and Coasts, a member of
11 the Environmental Protection Agency's Massachusetts Bay Outfall Monitoring Scientific
12 Advisory Committee, and numerous other boards and committees; and

13 WHEREAS, Scott Nixon possessed a brilliant mind and a vibrant spirit. He was a vital
14 member of the University of Rhode Island community and he will be profoundly missed by those
15 who had the good fortune to be a part of his challenging and fulfilling life; now, therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
17 Providence Plantations hereby expresses our deepest sympathies on the passing of Scott W.
18 Nixon; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
20 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Carter Nixon and Beth Nixon.

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