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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF MELVIN L. ZURIER

Introduced By: Senator Valarie J. Lawson

Date Introduced: January 14, 2025

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, It is with deep sadness that this Senate has learned of the passing of Melvin
2 L. Zurier, the beloved husband of the late Janet Zurier for 71 years; and

3 WHEREAS, Melvin Zurier was born in Providence, the son of the late Louis and Frances
4 Zurier, and was the brother of the late Hilda Glickman and Rosalind Gever; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Zurier was part of the first generation of his family to be born in the
6 United States, and was the first member of his family to attend college. Mr. Zurier attended the
7 Henry Barnard School, Classical High School, Harvard College, and Harvard Law School. While
8 at Harvard, he obtained a commission in the United States Air Force Reserve and went on to
9 serve in the United States Air Force Reserve, where he served in the Judge Advocate General
10 Corps, retiring with the rank of Colonel in the United States Air Force Reserve; and

11 WHEREAS, On July 4, 1950, Melvin Zurier met the love of his life, Janet Rosen of
12 Allentown, Pennsylvania, and after a whirlwind courtship, they married on July 4, 1951. The
13 Zuriers returned to Providence with Mr. Zurier practicing law. His tireless work ethic, abiding
14 integrity and vast knowledge of the law came to the attention of Rhode Island Governor John
15 Notte, who appointed him to serve as his Executive Counsel. Later, in 1962, Mr. Zurier was a
16 founding member of the Temkin, Merolla & Zurier law firm, where he worked for nearly twenty
17 years. Mr. Zurier later practiced with the law firms of Levy, Goodman, and Licht & Seminoff
18 until 2008; and

19 WHEREAS, Melvin Zurier had a long and distinguished career of exemplary public and
20 community service. He served as the Chairman of the Rhode Island Ethics Commission, and

1 served as the President of Temple Beth El, and the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association.
2 He also supported numerous charitable, political and educational organizations, including the
3 Jewish Federation of Rhode Island and the Classical High School Varsity Club; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Zurier a devoted family man his entire life, leaves behind his four
5 children, Rebecca Zurier and her husband, Thomas Willette, the Honorable Samuel Zurier and his
6 wife, Lauren, Benjamin Zurier and his wife, Linda Movish, and Sarah Zurier and her husband,
7 Jonathan Bell, and his eight grandchildren Rachel Zurier and her husband, Daniel Fishman, Jack,
8 Hannah, William, and Joseph Zurier, Nathan and Aaron Willette, and Zachary Bell. Mr. Zurier
9 also leaves behind many nieces and nephews; now, therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby expresses its
11 condolences on the passing of Melvin L. Zurier; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
13 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Senator Samuel D. Zurier and Family.

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