

2013 -- S 0788

=====
LC02156
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF ANDREW A. ATHENS

Introduced By: Senators Raptakis, Gallo, Paiva Weed, Walaska, and Nesselbush

Date Introduced: March 20, 2013

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, It is with great sadness that this Senate has learned of the passing of Andrew
2 A. Athens, a devoted family man, Chairman of Metron Steel, a major mid-west steel corporation,
3 and one of the eminent leaders in the international Greek community; and

4 WHEREAS, Blessed with a close and loving family, Mr. Athens was a devoted husband
5 of sixty-seven years to his wife, Louise, a wonderful father to his children, Paul and his wife,
6 Kellee, and Jacqueline and her husband, Alex, and his four cherished grandchildren, Andrew and
7 wife, Lanci, Alexa, James Paul, and Matthew, who kept him young at heart; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Athens was born and spent his childhood in Chicago, Illinois. As with
9 many young men of the day, Mr. Athens left college, against his father's wishes, to defend
10 America and the free world against Hitler's Axis Forces during World War II; and

11 WHEREAS, Widely considered to be the leader of the millions of Greeks living outside
12 of Greece, Mr. Athens was the first and longest tenured President of the World Council of
13 Hellenes Abroad (SAE). He has also been hailed for almost singlehandedly creating health clinics
14 in the Hellenic areas of the Republics of Albania, Armenia, Georgia, and Ukraine, which resulted
15 in saving the lives of thousands of patients who would otherwise have had no high quality
16 medical treatment; and

17 WHEREAS, At the request of the Greek Orthodox Archbishop Iakovos, Mr. Athens
18 united the Greek-American community's strength to positively affect American foreign policy.
19 He worked closely with other Hellenes, including George P. Livanos, George Paraskevaides,
20 Angelo Tsakopoulos, Philip Christopher, Andy Manatos, Nikos Mouyiaris, Peter Papanicolaou,

1 and many others in the Coordinated Effort of Hellenes, which became a vital and effective tool
2 and resource for Congress and many of our country's Presidents and resulted in myriad benefits
3 for the countries of Greece and Cyprus and the Ecumenical Patriarchate; and

4 WHEREAS, In addition, Mr. Athens was the lay head of the Archdiocesan Council of the
5 Greek Orthodox Church in America for more than a decade. He was also the founder of Orthodox
6 Christian Charities and a founder of Leadership 100, and had twice chaired the Clergy-Laity
7 Congress, to name just three of his major accomplishments in this field; and

8 WHEREAS, In the journey of life some people leave an indelible mark, making it
9 impossible to ever forget them. Mr. Athens was just such a man. He epitomized what is best
10 about Hellenism and Orthodoxy, and his accomplishments for the Greek Orthodox Church are
11 enduring. His intelligence, sincerity, charm, and the love he had for his family will be felt and
12 treasured by generations to come; now, therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
14 hereby extends our deepest sympathy on the passing of Andrew A. Athens; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
16 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mrs. Louise Athens and Family.

=====
LC02156
=====