

2015 -- S 0937

=====
LC002737
=====

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING PROFOUND SYMPATHY ON THE PASSING OF JAMES J. SKEFFINGTON,
SR.

Introduced By: Senators Paiva Weed, Ruggerio, Goodwin, Coyne, and Algieri

Date Introduced: May 21, 2015

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, It is with great sadness that this Senate has learned of the passing of James
2 J. Skeffington, Sr., an enormously well-renowned and well-respected figure in Rhode Island's
3 legal and business communities for more than five decades; and

4 WHEREAS, James Skeffington was born in Providence, where he grew up in the Smith
5 Hill section of the city. He was a son of the late John and Evelyn Skeffington, and the brother of
6 John Skeffington, Jr., and Jane Skeffington. He attended the St. Augustine School and LaSalle
7 Academy, and graduated Cum Laude from Boston College, where his outstanding intellectual
8 prowess earned him numerous academic excellence awards including membership in the National
9 Academic Honor Society, and the school's prestigious Ever to Excel Award for "Outstanding
10 Achievement Over Four Years"; and

11 WHEREAS, Continuing his education, Mr. Skeffington graduated from Georgetown
12 University Law Center and upon graduation, served as the first law clerk to the late Justice
13 Thomas F. Kelleher of the Rhode Island Supreme Court; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Skeffington lived most of his life in Barrington and Narragansett, where
15 he and his wife, Barbara raised their two children, James J. Skeffington Jr., and Erinn E. Murray.
16 A devoted family man and father, he enjoyed many hours coaching his children's baseball and
17 softball teams while they were young. As they grew to be adults, he developed a great
18 relationship with his son's wife, Renee, and his daughter's husband, Brendan, and was overjoyed
19 at becoming a grandfather to his seven grandchildren, Nicole, Maggie, William, Ryan, James,

1 Claire and Katherine. Of all his life's myriad successes and brilliant accomplishments, the love of
2 his family was always his most cherished gift; and

3 WHEREAS, Jim Skeffington's life was replete with a panoply of achievements and
4 triumphs too numerous to list. He was a leading partner at the law firm Locke Lord LLP, and
5 played a major leadership role in numerous government and private business developments in
6 Rhode Island. He was a guiding force in many of the state's quasi-public authorities including,
7 The Port Authority and Economic Development Corporation, the Housing and Mortgage Finance
8 Corporation, the Health and Educational Building Corporation, the Student Loan Authority, the
9 Industrial Facilities Corporation, the Industrial-Recreational Building Authority, the Solid Waste
10 Management Corporation, the Public Building Authority, the Providence Public Parking
11 Authority and the Convention Center; and

12 WHEREAS, Over the past fifty years, through vision, innate integrity, and leadership,
13 Jim Skeffington successfully supported, advocated, influenced, or enhanced many of this state's
14 major economic developments including the entry of General Dynamics and Fidelity into the
15 state, the relocation and expansion of Women and Infants Hospital, new campuses for Roger
16 Williams University and Bryant University, development of the Convention Center, the Westin
17 Hotel and the Providence Place Mall, the retention and expansion of CVS Health and GTECH
18 corporate headquarters, parking improvements at T.F. Green Airport, development of
19 Laurelmead, and most recently, led a group of investors in the purchase of the Pawtucket Red
20 Sox, serving as a principal owner and President of the team; and

21 WHEREAS, Jim Skeffington not only changed the skyline of Providence and the
22 landscape of many of our state's cities and towns, but also raised Rhode Island's communities
23 through his unfailing support for numerous altruistic endeavors as well as individuals in need. He
24 served on the board of many educational and charitable institutions and was a founding member
25 of the Coalition for Community Development; the creator of the Ocean State Charity Trust;
26 Chairman Emeritus of the John E. Fogarty Foundation for the Mentally Retarded; a former
27 member of the Board of Visitors of Georgetown University Law Center; a trustee of the
28 Massachusetts Business Roundtable; and a trustee of the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation. In
29 addition, he served on the Board of Directors for the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce
30 and the American College of Bond Counsel; was a Trustee of Bryant University, Providence
31 College, and the Providence Performing Arts Center; and was a former Trustee of both Women
32 and Infants Hospital and Butler Hospital; and

33 WHEREAS, Mr. Skeffington was also a generous donor to the American Heart
34 Association (which honored him in 2009 with the Rhode Island American Heart Association

1 Gold Heart Award), LaSalle Academy, Boston College and Georgetown University, as well as
2 the Department of Pediatric Cardiology at Boston Children's Hospital and Rhode Island Catholic
3 Charities; and

4 WHEREAS, James Skeffington lived his life and loved his family and friends fully and
5 fearlessly. There is little doubt that his lifetime of accomplishments has set a standard for
6 excellence that is an inspiration, and he will forever be remembered for his extraordinary
7 leadership and his deep commitment to the betterment of our state; now, therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
9 hereby expresses our deepest sympathies on the passing of James J. Skeffington, Sr.; and be it
10 further

11 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
12 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mrs. Barbara J. Skeffington and Family.

=====
LC002737
=====