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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING PROFOUND SYMPATHY ON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE J.
JOSEPH GARRAHY

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

Date Introduced: January 31, 2012

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, It is with great sadness that this Senate has learned of the passing of The
2 Honorable J. Joseph Garrahy, a true gentleman, who served the people of our state with honor
3 and integrity as the 69th Governor of the State of Rhode Island; and

4 WHEREAS, J. Joseph Garrahy was born on November 26th of 1930 in the City of
5 Providence. He was the son of Irish immigrants who instilled him with the qualities of honesty,
6 good manners, and a tremendous work ethic from a very early age; and

7 WHEREAS, With money earned from his paper route, Governor Garrahy attended
8 LaSalle Academy. He took evening courses at the University of Rhode Island and also attended
9 the University of Buffalo. Years later, he proudly received an honorary degree from Salve
10 Regina College for his leadership in the areas of health, education, and youth; and

11 WHEREAS, In the 1950s, Governor Garrahy served as a full-time member of the Air
12 National Guard and later served as a staff sergeant in the Air Force during the Korean Conflict.
13 Upon completion of his military service, he married Margherite DiPietro and over the succeeding
14 years, the couple had five children; and

15 WHEREAS, The Honorable J. Joseph Garrahy was elected by the people of Providence
16 to the Rhode Island Senate in 1963. He quickly earned a reputation for being a fair and open
17 leader and served as Deputy Majority Leader and also as the Democratic State Chairman. In
18 1968, he was elected by the people of Rhode Island to serve as the state's 61st Lieutenant
19 Governor, and in 1976, he was elected Governor of our state and was subsequently reelected in

1 1978, 1980, and 1982; and

2 WHEREAS, A man of great compassion and humility, The Honorable J. Joseph
3 Garrahy was without doubt one of the most beloved governors in Rhode Island’s history.
4 Confronted with an almost insurmountable challenge during the infamous blizzard of 1978,
5 then-Governor Garrahy’s plaid flannel shirt became synonymous with dedication and a
6 symbol for the kind of hands-on style of leadership that was a hallmark of his administration;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Governor Garrahy is credited with myriad humane, economic, and
9 environmental accomplishments, including restructuring the state’s prison system and the
10 Ladd School, initiating steps to stop pollution of Narragansett Bay, presiding over
11 development of the Greenhouse Compact, and endeavoring to bring additional businesses
12 into the state; and

13 WHEREAS, After leaving office, Governor Garrahy continued to shape and influence
14 a brighter future for the Ocean State with his involvement in a panoply of organizations. He
15 was also employed as a business consultant and served on the board of the Southeastern New
16 England Shipbuilding Corp. and the Providence and Worcester Railroad Co.; and

17 WHEREAS, In addition to his loving wife of more than five and a half decades,
18 Margherite, Governor Garrahy was the beloved father and supportive father-in-law to Colleen
19 Mahoney and her husband, Michael, John Garrahy and his wife, Barbara, Maribeth Hardman and
20 her husband, Robert, Sheila Mitchell and her husband, Gregory, and Seana Edwards and her
21 husband, Michael. He was also the very proud “poppy” to eleven grandchildren; and

22 WHEREAS, There is little doubt that The Honorable J. Joseph Garrahy’s compassion
23 and work ethic set a standard for excellence in public service that inspired this state. He will
24 forever be remembered for his extraordinary leadership and for his deep commitment to serving
25 the citizens of the State of Rhode Island; now, therefore be it

26 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
27 hereby expresses our deepest sympathies to the entire Garrahy Family on the passing of Governor
28 J. Joseph Garrahy; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
30 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mrs. Margherite Garrahy and Family.

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