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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXTENDING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF FRANCIS BURNS

Introduced By: Senators Sosnowski, Sheehan, and Maher

Date Introduced: February 11, 2010

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, It is with great sadness that this Senate has learned of the passing of Francis
2 “Scottie” Burns, beloved husband for fifty-seven years to Stella, and father of Lawrence, Mark,
3 Sharlene, Fred, and Francis, Jr.; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in 1922, Mr. Burns’ early years were marred by hardship and
5 adversity. Forced to work picking cotton at the age of five and denied an education past the
6 fourth grade, he “jumped a rail” at the age of fourteen to begin a new life; and

7 WHEREAS, While many men would have succumbed to the difficulties Mr. Burns had
8 faced as a child, he thrived. He loved life, was “fiercely cheerful,” and proved that through hard
9 work anything is possible; and

10 WHEREAS, After living the life of a hobo for three years, Mr. Burns joined the military,
11 where he served with honor in the United States Army. In 1941, while serving as a sergeant in
12 the Military Police, Mr. Burns survived the bombing of Pearl Harbor by driving into a ditch. He
13 commemorated the event by attending South County’s Pearl Harbor Memorial service each year;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, An active, contributing, and somewhat legendary member of the
16 community, Mr. Burns worked as an aircraft mechanic and a pinsetter mechanic and was the
17 owner of the “South County Spectator.” Later in life, he started a stump grinding business, and
18 was extremely proud of his stump grinding prowess that extended well into his 80s; and

19 WHEREAS, Scottie Burns wore many hats during his illustrious lifetime, both literally
20 and figuratively. From a hobo to a successful business owner, from taping a toilet plunger to the

1 top of his head to using his wits to survive Pearl Harbor, Scottie loved to make people laugh and
2 was always willing to give his time or energy to help out. He was a true enigma, and he will be
3 sadly missed but fondly remembered; now, therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
5 hereby expresses our deepest sympathies on the passing of Francis “Scottie” Burns; and be it
6 further

7 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
8 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mrs. Stella Burns and Family.

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