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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING SINCERE CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE
THOMAS N. GOODWIN

Introduced By: Senators Paiva Weed, and Ruggerio

Date Introduced: May 10, 2016

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 Thomas N. Goodwin, a well-respected former member of the Rhode Island Senate, the
3 loving husband of the late Patricia M. Goodwin for fifty-three years, and the cherished father of
4 three daughters, our friend and colleague, Senator Maryellen Goodwin, Sheila Connelly and her
5 husband, Paul, and Maureen LaRocque and her husband, Jeffrey; and

6 WHEREAS, A son of the late Owen and Ann Goodwin, Tom Goodwin grew up in a
7 large, loving, and boisterous family in the City of Providence. He was the brother of Ann Masse,
8 Ellen Myers and Catherine Murphy, and the late Edward Goodwin, Peter Goodwin, the Reverend
9 Owen Goodwin, SS.CC, Ellen Goodwin, Mary Sweeney, and Jane A. Goodwin; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Goodwin was a graduate of La Salle Academy and the New England
11 Institute of Applied Arts & Sciences in Boston. He continued his education, taking business
12 classes at Providence College. He also held a Master Plumber and Pipefitters License in Rhode
13 Island; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1951, Mr. Goodwin began what would become his lifelong profession.
15 After serving as an apprentice under Russell J. Boyle at the former William J. Chisholm Funeral
16 Home, he became a professional Funeral Director. For more than six decades, he assisted families
17 of those who had passed with compassion and devotion at the Russell J. Boyle & Son Funeral
18 Homes, in both Providence and Warwick; and

19 WHEREAS, On November 5th of 1968, the Honorable Thomas Goodwin was elected to

1 the Rhode Island Senate, representing neighborhoods in the City of Providence. Held in the
2 highest esteem by both his constituency and his colleagues in the Senate, he served for five terms,
3 retiring in 1979. During his tenure, Mr. Goodwin was instrumental in establishing the Rhode
4 Island Veterans Cemetery, and the Rhode Island Lottery. Following in her dad's footsteps, the
5 Honorable Maryellen Goodwin now holds her father's seat; and

6 WHEREAS, In addition to his wife, daughters, and sons-in-law, Mr. Goodwin was the
7 proud grandfather of four beautiful grandchildren, Marygrace Heywood, Teresa Rose and John
8 Paul LaRocque, and Liam Thomas Connelly. He was also the beloved uncle of many nieces,
9 nephews and cousins, as well as his beloved sidekick, Jorge "Stix" Charon; and

10 WHEREAS, Tom Goodwin spent much of his life in service to others. In addition to his
11 family and years in the Senate, he was active in a panoply of local and civic organizations
12 including, being a charter member of the "100" Club of Rhode Island, an active member of the
13 Rhode Island Former Legislators Association, and a charter member of the Capitol Hill
14 Interaction Council. He had also been the Trustee of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Providence
15 since 1978, a parishioner since 1958, and upon his retirement, had joined his wife in helping their
16 daughter Maureen in the operation of "Perfect Beginnings Christian Day Care"; and

17 WHEREAS, The Honorable Thomas Goodwin's compassion and good nature enriched
18 the lives of all who were fortunate enough to have been part of his noble life, and his dedication
19 to his family and public service is an inspiration to us all; now, therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
21 hereby expresses our deepest sympathies to the family of the Honorable Thomas N. Goodwin on
22 his passing. We further avow that he will forever be warmly remembered by this membership
23 and the citizens of Rhode Island for the profundity and generosity of his heart and his deeds, and
24 for the lifetime of service he bestowed on the people of this state; and

25 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
26 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Senator Maryellen Goodwin, Sheila and Paul
27 Connelly, and Maureen and Jeffrey LaRocque.

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