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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010**

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**SENATE RESOLUTION**

**EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF WALTER "CHRIS" HEISLER**

Introduced By: Senator V. Susan Sosnowski

Date Introduced: June 10, 2010

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1           WHEREAS, It is with great sadness that this Senate has learned of the passing of Walter  
2 "Chris" Heisler, a resident and well-respected citizen of the Town of South Kingstown; and

3           WHEREAS, In many ways, Chris was a genuine hero. A World War II Veteran of the  
4 82nd Airborne Division/507<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment, he parachuted onto Normandy Beach,  
5 France, on June 6, 1944. Four men who jumped with Chris had faulty shoots, and the plane was  
6 shot down shortly after the jump. Alone, Chris was determined to find his men. He landed his  
7 parachute in a large tree, cut himself loose, and noticed a house 200 yards away. Surrounded by  
8 Germans, he tried to ambush them, but was trapped and spent time in a prison camp with other  
9 WWII soldiers. Eventually, he was released from prison; and

10           WHEREAS, After the war, Chris earned a Master's degree and then a doctoral degree in  
11 school administration. He then focused his professional energies on providing an excellent  
12 education for aspiring teachers at the University of Rhode Island; and

13           WHEREAS, Chris never forgot or let others forget the supreme sacrifices made by the  
14 Greatest Generation. In 2006, he was featured in a documentary about six war veterans returning  
15 to Normandy. He felt a responsibility to continue to tell others about what happened on June 6,  
16 1944, and the significance of that date. He especially wanted to make sure that those men who  
17 didn't make it back had a voice; and

18           WHEREAS, Chris was kind, generous, and infinitely passionate about what he believed  
19 in. He touched the lives of generations of young people both through his love of learning and his  
20 enthusiasm for history; and

1           WHEREAS, A man dedicated to his country, a WWII war hero, professor, and  
2 humanitarian, Chris' life and achievements will live on for many years to come in the memories  
3 of everyone fortunate enough to have been touched by the quality of this remarkable gentleman;  
4 now, therefore be it

5           RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
6 hereby expresses our deepest sympathies to his wife, Gloria, daughter, Jill, son, Walter, Jr.,  
7 grandson, Kyle, and sisters Evelyn, Joyce, and Rosaline on the passing of Walter "Chris" Heisler;  
8 and be it further

9           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to  
10 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Gloria Heisler.

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