

2019 -- H 5927

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LC002262
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019

HOUSE RESOLUTION

CONDEMNING THE HATEFUL DEFACING OF GRAVESTONES AT THE HEBREW
CEMETERY IN FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS

Introduced By: Representatives Knight, Kislak, Ackerman, Filippi, and Shekarchi

Date Introduced: March 28, 2019

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, In the 1950s and 1960s, Fall River had a strong, vibrant, and visible Jewish
2 community connected to the textile industry; and

3 WHEREAS, As loved ones passed, many were interred at the 300-plot Hebrew cemetery
4 on McMahon Street in Fall River; and

5 WHEREAS, Overnight, on Saturday March 16th into Sunday, March 17th, 2019, 59
6 gravestones at the Hebrew cemetery were defaced with vicious and cruel anti-Semitic language
7 and swastikas, and others were brutally toppled; and

8 WHEREAS, This anti-Semitic malevolent attack was not only an affront on the
9 memories of the families of those buried at the cemetery, but was a hate crime perpetrated against
10 all Jewish people, and an assault to humanity; and

11 WHEREAS, Anti-Semitism in any form breeds violence and is eminently sad,
12 disrespectful, and unconditionally condemnable; now, therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
14 Providence Plantations hereby honors the memory of those at the Hebrew Cemetery and stands
15 united in rejecting and condemning these vile and intolerable acts of anti-Semitism and hatred;
16 and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
18 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Jeffrey Weissmann, President of Congregation
19 Adas Israel, Stephen Silverman, President of Temple Beth El, and Robert Trestan, Director of the

1 Anti-Defamation League of New England.

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