

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXTENDING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF BROTHER MICHAEL REIS, FSC, LICSW, PH. D (H.C.), FOUNDER OF TIDES FAMILY SERVICES

Introduced By: Representatives Abney, McNamara, Chippendale, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Tanzi, Ajello, Boylan, Shallcross Smith, and Fogarty

Date Introduced: January 09, 2024

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, It is with sadness that this House has learned of the passing of Brother
2 Michael Reis, co-founder of Ocean Tides, founder of Tides Family Services, and lifelong
3 advocate for those in need; and

4 WHEREAS, Born William Reis, Brother Michael grew up in the Rockaways in Queens,
5 New York, the son of the late John and Alvina Reis, and the brother of John Reis, Ronald Reis,
6 and the late Mary O'Donnell, AFSC, and her husband, John; and

7 WHEREAS, Brother Michael was a graduate of Catholic University of America, where
8 he received his Bachelor's degree. Continuing his education, he attained a Master's degree in
9 Counseling Psychology from Manhattan College, a Master's in Social Work from Rhode Island
10 College, and a Doctor of Educational Leadership, honoris cuasa from Saint Mary's University;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Throughout his lifetime, Brother Michael believed in doing whatever it took
13 for as long as it took to help others which eventually led him to working with children and young
14 people "in the most distressed and poverty-stricken areas of Rhode Island"; and

15 WHEREAS, In the 1970s, Brother Michael joined the De La Salle Christian Brothers
16 faculty as a math teacher, but soon thereafter, his calling to social work and particularly service to
17 the poor, brought him to the Lasallian Mission working initially at Lincoln Hall in New York, and
18 ultimately relocating to Rhode Island, where he worked as a Chaplain at the Adult Correctional
19 Institute; and

1 WHEREAS, In 1974, Brother Michael co-founded Ocean Tides with the purpose "to
2 never give up on youth in the community" and served as the organization's first Chief Executive
3 Officer. In 1983, he founded Tides Family Services, where he spent the next thirty-five years as a
4 devoted champion for children, especially at-risk young people; and

5 WHEREAS, Considered by many to be a visionary, Brother Michael "laid the foundation
6 for children's behavioral health, child welfare, and juvenile justice programming" that is still
7 considered innovative and state-of-the-art today; and

8 WHEREAS, In addition to his work at Tides, Brother Michael was a registered lobbyist
9 for the RI NASW and had been active with numerous community organizations and boards
10 including the Pawtucket Soup Kitchen, the Rhode Island Chapter of the NASW, the State of
11 Rhode Island: Sexual Offender Management Task Force, the Rhode Island Children's Policy
12 Coalition, the Parent Support Network, and The San Miguel School; and

13 WHEREAS, Brother Michael's determination, unwavering dedication, and myriad
14 successes in improving the lives of "youth who were left behind by other institutions" had a
15 significant and positive impact on the lives of so many young people in our State and he will be
16 dearly missed; now, therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
18 extends deepest condolences on the passing of Brother Michael Reis; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
20 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to John Reis, Ronald Reis, and Tides Family
21 Services.

=====
LC003280
=====