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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING PROFOUND SYMPATHY ON THE PASSING OF FRANK DIPAOLO, JR.

Introduced By: Senators Goodwin, P Fogarty, and Lombardi

Date Introduced: February 27, 2013

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, On Thursday, February 14, 2013, the State of Rhode Island lost one of its
2 greatest treasures with the passing of Frank DiPaolo, Jr.; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. DiPaolo, who was 106 years old, devoted his life to steadfastly
4 supporting the American dream and to tirelessly working to make a better life for generations of
5 Rhode Islanders. For the last three decades, he was a much-loved inhabitant of the State House.
6 Much more than his title of doorkeeper conveyed, Frank generously shared his wisdom, his
7 unqualified friendship, and his sharp sense of humor with legions of members of the Rhode Island
8 General Assembly; and

9 WHEREAS, Frank was married to the late Eugenia DiPaolo, and together, they raised
10 Evelyn, Thomas, Claire Birkmaier, who recently retired from the Rhode Island State Senate, and
11 the late Richard. He was also blessed with fifteen grandchildren, seventeen great-grandchildren
12 and a newly arrived great-great granddaughter and was the brother of Clara and the late Etta,
13 Philip, and Anthony; and

14 WHEREAS, Frank's life was replete with a wealth of experiences and a significant array
15 of relationships. In his youth, he passionately pursued bicycle racing. He was also an assistant to
16 Dr. Thomas F. Scanlon for many years, and built a friendship with the doctor that was based on
17 mutual respect and a shared love of hunting and fishing; and

18 WHEREAS, Frank displayed considerable talent as a mechanic and maintained a small
19 fleet of flower cars. While he considered it a thrill to travel to Indianapolis to watch the Indy 500,
20 in his heart, no other vehicle ever came close to his 1926 Packard touring cars; and

1 WHEREAS, For many years, Frank and his brother, Philip, were the owners of the Castle
2 Spa on Chalkstone Avenue, a must visit destination that earned its reputation for having the best
3 ham sandwiches in the state; and

4 WHEREAS, Frank’s adult life was marked by energy and enthusiasm for local, state, and
5 national politics. He consistently supported those political candidates he thought could change the
6 world for the better. In 1928, he backed New York Governor Alfred Smith in the Governor’s
7 unsuccessful run for President. Frank went on to help fuel the campaigns of fifteen Rhode Island
8 governors and over thirty General Assembly races; and

9 WHEREAS, Frank played an especially prominent role in supporting former
10 Congressman Patrick Kennedy, when the Congressman was still a student at Providence College
11 and Castle Spa customer who dreamed of becoming a statesman. Frank saw the budding
12 leadership in young Patrick and provided him with seasoned advice and encouragement that won
13 him a seat in the Rhode Island House of Representatives and paved the way to a successful bid
14 for Congress. Congressman Kennedy counted Frank as one of his most trusted advisors and
15 friends, and Frank, in turn, considered Congressman Kennedy as his “number three son”; and

16 WHEREAS, At the age of 99, Frank attended a White House dinner and met the
17 President, but he was most proud of having a private audience at the Vatican with Pope John Paul
18 II; and

19 WHEREAS, Frank DiPaolo achieved an extraordinary impact over the course of his
20 lifetime, through his actions and through the actions he inspired in others. A man of immense
21 conviction, he never wavered in his support of what he thought was right and good; now,
22 therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
24 hereby expresses its profound sympathy on the passing of Frank DiPaolo, Jr.; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
26 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the DiPaolo Family, Claire Birkmaier and The
27 Honorable Patrick Kennedy.

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