

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING PROFOUND SYMPATHY ON THE PASSING OF MARGUERITE
BEAUBIEN

Introduced By: Senator Harold M. Metts

Date Introduced: May 11, 2010

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, It is with great sadness that this Senate has learned of the passing of
2 Marguerite Beaubien, a community, social, and human rights advocate, and the loving wife of the
3 late Charles Beaubien, devoted mother of Charles Beaubien, Jr., and Elizabeth Farrow, and the
4 proud grandmother of two granddaughters and two great granddaughters; and

5 WHEREAS, The daughter of the late Charles and Marian Dimond of East Providence,
6 Marguerite Beaubien was born into a poor African-American family. Her early struggles with
7 prejudice and poverty taught her lifelong lessons and instilled in her an empathy for her fellow
8 man that would flourish throughout her life; and

9 WHEREAS, Upon graduation from Rhode Island State College, now known as the
10 University of Rhode Island, and the Wellesley College Summer Institute for Social Programs,
11 Mrs. Beaubien began her journey of social advocacy as a state social worker, the first African-
12 American woman to hold such a position. She was later named coordinator of community
13 relations and equal opportunity with the Rhode Island Department of Human Services (DHS),
14 retiring in 1983; and

15 WHEREAS, Mrs. Beaubien was also one of the first black women to serve on corporate
16 boards such as Delta Dental, Blue Shield, Women & Infants and Butler Hospitals, the University
17 of Rhode Island, and the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission. She also served as
18 chairwoman of the Rhode Island Commission on Women and the Rhode Island Commission for
19 Human Rights, was elected twice as secretary of the National Association of Advisory

1 Commissions on Women, and was chosen as a delegate to the White House Conference on
2 Aging; and

3 WHEREAS, Consistently and selflessly donating her time and talents to myriad local
4 organizations, Mrs. Beaubien was an officer and board member of the John Hope Settlement
5 House, the Urban League of Rhode Island, the United Way of Rhode Island, the Junior Service
6 League, the Providence Shelter for Colored Children, Planned Parenthood Rhode Island, the
7 Rhode Island Black Heritage Society, the East Providence Community Center, and the National
8 Conference of Christians and Jews; and

9 WHEREAS, Mrs. Beaubien's outstanding service to the people of the state resulted in a
10 plethora of richly deserved honors and distinctions. The DHS established the annual Marguerite
11 A. Beaubien Humanitarian Award in her honor, former U.S. Rep. Claudine Schneider singled her
12 out for special congressional recognition, and she was honored with the Community Service
13 Award from the John Hope Settlement House. She also received the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority
14 Community Award and the NAACP annual Joseph G. LeCount Award, and was inducted into the
15 East Providence High School Hall of Fame; and

16 WHEREAS, There is no doubt that this kind and gentle soul left the world a far better
17 place because of her life's work. Mrs. Beaubien's efforts on behalf of social advocacy uplifted
18 and enriched the lives of everyone she encountered, and her empathy and boundless compassion
19 for human rights 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 on the passing of Marguerite Beaubien; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
23 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Charles Beaubien, Jr., and Elizabeth Farrow.

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