

2023 -- H 6249

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE  
RALPH HERBERT WOODMANSEE

Introduced By: Representatives Cotter, Chippendale, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Kennedy,  
Fenton-Fung, Ajello, Edwards, Tanzi, and Bennett

Date Introduced: April 04, 2023

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, It is with deep sadness that this House has learned of the passing of the  
2 Honorable Ralph Herbert Wodmansee. He was born in Oneco, Connecticut, a son of the late  
3 Helen Louise and Frank Irving Woodmansee; and

4           WHEREAS, Ralph Woodmansee moved to Exeter with his family in 1943, attending a  
5 one-room schoolhouse for eight grades, and North Kingstown High School where he played  
6 football for the Skippers; and

7           WHEREAS, As a young man, Mr. Woodmansee helped his father on his milk route both  
8 before and after school. He also enjoyed being a member of the Future Farmers of America and  
9 Exeter Grange #12, a membership he continued throughout his life for 75 years; and

10          WHEREAS, Mr. Woodmansee joined the Rhode Island Air Force National Guard in  
11 1953, and served our Nation with honor and distinction for eight years, until receiving his  
12 Honorable Discharge in 1961; and

13          WHEREAS, Mr. Woodmansee was a hard-working and enterprising man who worked  
14 tirelessly to provide for his family and loved ones in myriad positions. He was a vacuum cleaner  
15 salesman, a shipping clerk, a pin setter, a driver and milkman, a mailman and credit union  
16 collections officer, and had owned and operated his own school bus for 12 years for the Exeter  
17 and Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District; and

18          WHEREAS, Mr. Woodmansee finally found his true professional calling when he took  
19 an insurance sales job with the Frank Briggs Insurance Agency in Saunderstown. He quickly

1 discovered that he had an aptitude for the insurance profession, and in 1960, launched his own  
2 insurance company, Woodmansee Insurance. He later co-founded the Chariho-Exeter Credit  
3 Union in 1963, and served on its Board of Directors for many years; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Woodmansee was also the Regional Director for Volunteer Fireman's  
5 Insurance Services, and was on the Board of Directors for the Rhode Island Independent  
6 Insurance Agents. He also owned and operated the West Greenwich Package Store for 30 years;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Woodmansee had a distinguished public service career. He was the last  
9 Rhode Island House of Representatives member elected solely from Exeter, serving in the Rhode  
10 Island House in 1965-1966. A significant accomplishment was achieved by Mr. Woodmansee  
11 when he helped to create a centralized Post Office for Exeter, giving them their own zip code; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Woodmansee was also elected to the Exeter Town Council in 1967 and  
13 served as its Town Council President from 1967 to 1970. Under his leadership, the Town  
14 implemented zoning ordinances, dump permits, and building permits to ensure that people were  
15 taxed properly; and

16 WHEREAS, In his free time, Mr. Woodmansee enjoyed sports and enjoyed following the  
17 Patriots and Red sox. He was also involved with youth football and cheerleading in Chariho, and  
18 played in the South Kingstown Men's Softball League for sixty consecutive seasons. He was a  
19 Life Member of Exeter Volunteer Fire Department #2, and had helped to create the Hope  
20 Valley/Wyoming Fire District in 1982; and

21 WHEREAS, The Honorable Ralph Herbert Woodmansee leaves behind his beloved wife  
22 of twenty years, Nancy Vaughn, and his cherished children, Ronald Woodmansee and his wife,  
23 Lynn Thomson, Sandra Chartier, Valerie Richard and David Woodmansee and his wife, Robin.  
24 He was also married to Joan Howard and Winifred Partelo. He leaves behind his brother, Lowell,  
25 his sister-in-law, Ethel Woodmansee, seventeen grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren, and  
26 several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brother, Nelson Woodmansee; now,  
27 therefore be it

28 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
29 expresses its deepest condolences on the passing of Ralph Herbert Woodmansee; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
31 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Nancy Vaughn, Ronald Wodmansee, Sandra

1 Chartier and Valerie Richard.

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