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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

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SENATE RESOLUTION

EXTENDING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF GRACE GUNNIP

Introduced By: Senator Valarie J. Lawson

Date Introduced: April 24, 2024

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1           WHEREAS, It is with sadness that this Senate has learned of the passing of Grace  
2 Gunnip, the beloved and very proud mother of Jenny and her husband, Chris, Jon and his wife,  
3 Katie, and Matthew and his wife, Rose; and

4           WHEREAS, Born in the City of Providence, Ms. Gunnip was the daughter of Henry and  
5 Mary Waldron, and the sister of Henry Waldon and his wife, Katie, Kay Conroy and her husband,  
6 Joe, Anne Murphy, and Mary Plante; and

7           WHEREAS, Ms. Gunnip was a graduate of St. Patrick's High School, and at the age of  
8 41, earned a degree in Human Development & Family Studies from the University of Rhode  
9 Island, where she was honored with a "special acknowledgment for her perseverance in pursuing  
10 her degree despite challenges"; and

11           WHEREAS, In her late 30s, Ms. Gunnip had been diagnosed with Guillain-Barré  
12 syndrome, a condition that causes paralysis, and required her to relearn to walk and drive, a  
13 challenge she met with amazing grace and determination; and

14           WHEREAS, Throughout her life Ms. Gunnip was devoted to her faith. As a young  
15 woman, she had entered the Religious Sisters of Mercy in Cumberland to become a nun. She  
16 chose to leave the novitiate but continued to be a dedicated Catholic; and

17           WHEREAS, As the sole support for her family, Ms. Gunnip worked tirelessly, often  
18 holding two jobs while always finding time to love and support her children. For many years, she  
19 had been employed at Insight assisting those who had lost their sight, and in the evening, she  
20 would clean office buildings. After earning her degree at URI, she became a social caseworker,

1 initially working with children and families impacted by abuse and neglect and subsequently  
2 specializing in adoptions, where “she delighted in helping children find their forever homes”; and

3 WHEREAS, In addition to her children, Ms. Gunnip was blessed with her cherished  
4 grandchildren, Aidan, Avery, Owen, Naomi, Kai, and Mateo; and

5 WHEREAS, Ms. Gunnip had faced many physical challenges throughout her lifetime,  
6 and at the age of 70, developed end-stage kidney disease, underwent triple-bypass surgery and  
7 received a heart valve transplant, but with her amazing strength and faith, was able to live her life  
8 independently for eight more years enjoying travel with her children to South Carolina, Florida,  
9 Ireland, the Cayman Islands and Martinique. Her final trip will be for her children to bring her  
10 ashes to Ireland, as her Irish heritage had always been important and a great source of pride for  
11 her; and

12 WHEREAS, Grace Gunnip was a wonderful and loving mother, grandmother and friend  
13 to many. She was “a sweet, loving person with such a kind heart and generous spirit” who  
14 possessed “great compassion and understanding” and “brought such light to the world” and she  
15 will be dearly missed; now, therefore be it.

16 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby expresses deepest  
17 sympathy on the passing of Grace Gunnip; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
19 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Jenny, Jon, and Matthew Gunnip.

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