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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025**

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**SENATE RESOLUTION**

**EXTENDING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE WALTER J.  
GRAY**

Introduced By: Senators Sosnowski, Ruggerio, Zurier, Ciccone, Thompson, Quezada,  
Patalano, Felag, Urso, and Murray

Date Introduced: January 14, 2025

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1           WHEREAS, It is with sadness that this Senate has learned of the passing of Walter J.  
2 Gray, the beloved husband of Mary Gray for seventy years, and the father of Walt Gray and his  
3 wife, Monica, and Tim Gray and his wife, Sheila. He was also the very proud grandfather of  
4 eight grandchildren, Ryan and Matthew Gray, Abby, Kelly and Joseph Gray, Shannon and Kyle  
5 Brassil, and Nora Gray; and

6           WHEREAS, Born in the City of Woonsocket, Mr. Gray was a son of the late John and  
7 Alice Gray. He was a graduate of Mount Saint Charles Academy and served our nation with  
8 honor in the United States Army. Upon returning from service, he earned his Bachelor's degree  
9 from Boston University in 1951; and

10           WHEREAS, Mr. Gray took a position as the assistant purser for Grace Line, Inc. before  
11 joining the staff of the Providence Journal as a state staff reporter in 1952. In 1955, he and his  
12 wife founded the East Providence Post weekly newspaper; and

13           WHEREAS, Well-respected for his journalistic talents, Mr. Gray was named press  
14 secretary to Governor Christopher Del Sesto in 1959, and was appointed assistant professor of  
15 communications at URI's College of Agriculture in 1960. He subsequently took a position as a  
16 public relations officer and later became Assistant to the President before taking a leave of  
17 absence to become a foreign service officer assigned to New Delhi, India; and

18           WHEREAS, In 1968, Mr. Gray returned to the University of Rhode Island as the Director  
19 of the Division of Marine Resources at the Graduate School of Oceanography. For his service to

1 URI, he received the URI President's Award for Administrative Excellence in 1978; and

2 WHEREAS, Always an active and contributing member of the community, Mr. Gray  
3 served in numerous philanthropic, and State and community positions including President of the  
4 Kingston Potter Trust of the R.I. Foundation, President of Christ the King Church Parish Council,  
5 a member of the State of R.I. Trade Mission to Japan, a member of the Governor's Council on  
6 Tourism, an adjunct professor at Bryant University, former President of the Board of Directors of  
7 the Courthouse Center for the Arts, and past President of the Narragansett Chamber of  
8 Commerce; and

9 WHEREAS, The Honorable Walter Gray also served the people of Rhode Island in a  
10 panoply of elected positions including as a member and past President of the South Kingstown  
11 Town Council, and as a Rhode Island State Senator for two terms; and

12 WHEREAS, Walter Gray was a steadfast gentleman who left this world a far better place  
13 because of his life's endeavors. He enriched the lives of all who knew him and he is dearly  
14 missed; now, therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby extends deepest  
16 condolences on the passing of the Honorable Walter J. Gray; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
18 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mrs. Mary Gray and Family.

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