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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE JOSEPH A.  
CAPINERI

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Messier, Furtado,  
Kennedy, Ackerman, Fellela, Ajello, and Diaz  
Date Introduced: January 08, 2026

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 Joseph A. Capineri, a distinguished member of the Rhode Island House of  
3   Representatives for 24 years, representing District 81 in Pawtucket, from 1957 to 1980. Mr.  
4   Capineri was the beloved husband of the late Ethel Capineri with whom he shared sixty years of  
5   marriage; and

6           WHEREAS, The Honorable Joseph Capineri was born in 1929, the son of the late Angelo  
7   and Giovanna Capineri. He was a graduate of Providence College and earned his Juris Doctor  
8   from Boston University School of Law, where he graduated second in his class and served on the  
9   Law Review. After graduating, Mr. Capineri started his own law firm in Pawtucket, where he  
10   practiced successfully, skillfully and with great passion and dedication well into his eighties; and

11          WHEREAS, Joseph Capineri was a longtime member of the Pawtucket Country Club  
12   with his wife Ethel, where he made many lifelong friendships and enjoyed playing golf and  
13   taking part in lively card games. Mr. Capineri was a member of numerous professional and social  
14   organizations, including the American Bar Association, Rhode Island Bar Association, Pawtucket  
15   Bar Association, Retired Legislator’s Association, Sons of Italy, Italian Dramatic Independent  
16   Political Club, To-Kalon Club, Elks Lodge, Bear Lakes Country Club, West Palm Beach, Florida  
17   and the Pawtucket Country Club; and

18          WHEREAS, The Honorable Joseph Capineri is survived by his son, the Honorable  
19   Stephen J. Capineri (Retired), Associate Justice of the Rhode Island Family Court, and his wife,

1 Nancy, and daughter Lisa Millar and her husband, Ronald. He is also survived by his four  
2 grandchildren, Peter Capineri, Marissa Shallcross, her husband Derrick, Michael Capineri, his  
3 wife, Catherine, and Kerri Zavota, and six great-grandchildren Ronan, Isla, Camden, George,  
4 Charles and Dayvon, and his daughter, Inola. Mr. Capineri was predeceased by his grandson, 1st  
5 Lieutenant Gregory F. Zavota; now, therefore be it

6         RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
7 expresses its deepest condolences on the passing of the Honorable Joseph A. Capineri; and be it  
8 further

9         RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
10 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Honorable Associate Justice Stephen J.  
11 Capineri and Lisa Millar.

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