

**2026 -- H 7060**

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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026**

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**H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N**

**EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF CONSTANCE PETRARCA**

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Serpa, Fellela, Chippendale, Kennedy, Ajello, Ackerman, Solomon, and Boylan

Date Introduced: January 13, 2026

Referred To: House read and passed

1        WHEREAS, It is with deep sadness that this House of Representatives has learned of the  
2 passing of Constance Petrarca at the age of 100. She was the beloved wife of the late Adolph J.  
3 Petrarca, and was the devoted mother of the Honorable Rhode Island State Representative  
4 Patricia Serpa (and the late Joseph Serpa), Lester and Linda Petrarca, and Joanne and Robert  
5 Diggins; and

6        WHEREAS, Constance Petrarca was born in Woonsocket on June 28, 1925, daughter of  
7 the late Floriane and Aime Groslouis. Constance graduated from West Warwick High School in  
8 1943, finishing at the top of her class, and was a member of the Rhode Island Honor Society.  
9 Constance was a member of the historic "Greatest Generation" that survived the deprivations of  
10 the Great Depression, the winning of World War II and the preservation of democracy in the  
11 United States, Western Europe and elsewhere across the globe; and

12       WHEREAS, Constance Petrarca worked as a secretary for many years before becoming a  
13 stay-at-home mom. Typical of those who lived through the Great Depression, Constance was a  
14 frugal mom and a consummate and tireless bargain hunter. She loved shopping for her family and  
15 loved ones and finding good deals at various department stores and thrift shops. Whatever was  
16 not used right away became part of her "warehouse," to be used when inevitably someone in her  
17 family needed something; and

18       WHEREAS, Constance Petrarca was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-  
19 grandmother who always put her loved ones first in her life. Her home was one of love, safety  
20 and physical and intellectual nourishment that gave her children a template for success out in the

1 world and in life. Constance was also a devout Catholic and woman of deep faith who prayed the  
2 Rosary regularly. In her free time, she enjoyed doing word search puzzles and staying abreast of  
3 the local and national news; and

4 WHEREAS, In addition to her children, Constance Petrarca leaves behind her  
5 grandchildren, Domenic DiMassi, Lynne and Henry Ruelle, Salvatore and Tonia Petrarca,  
6 Madelyn and Philip Swanson, Regina Petrarca, and Jennifer and Matthew Sousa, and her great-  
7 grandchildren, Gabriele DiMasi, Torin Ruelle, and Hunter Swanson; now, therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
9 expresses its deepest condolences on the passing of Constance Petrarca; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
11 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Honorable Patricia Serpa and Family.

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