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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXTENDING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF JOSEPHINE B.
FINNEGAN

Introduced By: Representatives Fogarty, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Hull,
Tanzi, Kazarian, Azzinaro, Spears, and McEntee
Date Introduced: January 13, 2026

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, It is with sadness that this House has learned of the passing of Josephine B.
2 Finnegan, the devoted wife of the late Terrence Finnegan II, PFC, and the cherished mother of
3 Rosemary Finnegan, Kevin Finnegan, and the late Bruce Finnegan and Terrence Finnegan III;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Mrs. Finnegan was born in Maine, a daughter of the late Joseph and Louise
6 Mantoosh, and the sister of Steven Wiatrowski, and the late Louise Lee, Leona Vilandrie, Laura
7 Midgley, Wanda Miller, Elaine McCarthy, Joseph Wasiuk, Stanley Mantoosh and Johnny Wasiuk.
8 As a young girl, she and her family moved to the City of Providence, where she attended Oliver
9 Hazard Perry High School; and

10 WHEREAS, With a loving personality, Mrs. Finnegan, lovingly known as “Granny
11 Josie” created a home that was warm and welcoming. She doted on her family and loved sharing
12 stories, and cooking her famous homemade pancakes, golumpkis and other Polish dishes, along
13 with her beloved blueberry or fruit pies, particularly for her grandchildren, Lynne Finnegan and
14 Aaron Finnegan, and her great-granddaughter, Keia DePina McKinney; and

15 WHEREAS, The Finnegans had raised their family in Providence and spent many
16 wonderful summers at Roy Carpenter's Beach, eventually moving permanently to East Matunuck.
17 She possessed a tremendous work ethic, and had been blessed with remarkable health and energy,
18 living until the age of 104, and still working a few mornings a week at the Ocean Mist until a few
19 months before her passing; and

1 WHEREAS, Throughout her life, Mrs. Finnegan had loved live music. She particularly
2 enjoyed late nights at the Ocean Mist where she was quite proudly honored with a "reserved" seat
3 to listen to the bands, and chat with locals and visitors to the seaside venue. A delightful
4 storyteller at heart, she would often say, "Oh, I could write a book with all the things I've seen";
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Josie Finnegan was a talented artist, an avid gardener, an accomplished
7 seamstress, and a skilled furniture remodeler who possessed a sharp wit, humor, and a vibrant
8 spirit that will forever be remembered and missed by all who had shared her remarkable life;
9 now, therefore be

10 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
11 extends deepest sympathy and condolences to the family of Josephine B. Finnegan; and be it
12 further

13 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
14 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Rosemary Finnegan and Family, and Kevin
15 Finnegan and Family.

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