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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING DEEPEST CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE  
DAVID R. CARLIN, JR.

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Carson, Ajello,  
Fellela, Tanzi, McNamara, Bennett, and Shallcross Smith

Date Introduced: January 15, 2026

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, It is with great sadness that this House has learned of the passing of the  
2   Honorable David R. Carlin, Jr., the esteemed former Majority Leader of the Rhode Island State  
3   Senate. He was the beloved husband of Maureen Carlin for more than 55 years; and  
4           WHEREAS, The Honorable David Carlin, Jr., was born in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, in  
5   1938, the son of the late David and Marion Carlin. Mr. Carlin graduated from Saint Raphael  
6   Academy in Pawtucket in 1956, and then attended Providence College, where he graduated with  
7   honors in 1960. Mr. Carlin continued his education by obtaining master's degrees in philosophy  
8   and sociology from the University of Notre Dame and the University of Rhode Island. Mr. Carlin  
9   then began a distinguished career in education as a college professor at the Community College  
10   of Rhode Island, where he taught for more than 40 years until his retirement after his 80th  
11   birthday; and  
12          WHEREAS, David Carlin also had a long and admirable record of outstanding public  
13   service, beginning as a member of the Newport School Committee in 1975, a position he held  
14   until his election to the Rhode Island State Senate in 1980, where he represented with distinction  
15   the residents of Newport and, in later years, the residents of Jamestown and Middletown. Widely  
16   respected by his colleagues, Mr. Carlin was chosen by his colleagues to serve as the Senate  
17   Majority Leader from 1988 to 1990. In 1992, David Carlin won his party's nomination to be the  
18   Democratic candidate for Rhode Island's 1st Congressional District. David Carlin also served as  
19   the Chair of the Newport Democratic Party City Committee from 1999 to 2005, and was elected

1     once again to serve on the Newport School Committee, from 2001 to 2009; and

2             WHEREAS, In his free time, Mr. Carlin was a prolific author, having written seven  
3     books and many newspaper and magazine articles, and was the recipient of many writing awards.  
4     He also greatly enjoyed reading, maintained a personal library of thousands of books and enjoyed  
5     traveling with his wife, having visited 48 states and most of Europe. Mr. Carlin was also a man of  
6     deep Catholic faith, which guided him throughout all aspects of his life; and

7             WHEREAS, In addition to his wife, Maureen, David Carlin leaves behind his children,  
8     David R. Carlin, III, and his wife, Patricia, Joshua E. Carlin, and his wife, Kerri, and Margaret R.  
9     Carlin. Mr. Carlin is also survived by his grandchildren, Brigid, Luke, Daniel, and Mary Carlin,  
10    as well as his sister, Catherine M. Duffy, and his niece, Mary Catherine Rollinson. Mr. Carlin was  
11    predeceased by his parents, sister, Maureen Fitzgerald, and his brothers-in-law, Bruce Fitzgerald  
12    and Vincent Duffy; now, therefore be it

13            RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
14    expresses its deepest condolences to the Carlin Family on the passing of the Honorable David R.  
15    Carlin, Jr., and be it further

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

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