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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

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

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF MARY MAGAVERN WORRELL

Introduced By: Representatives Ajello, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Chippendale, Kennedy, Edwards, Bennett, Solomon, Fogarty, and Shallcross Smith

Date Introduced: February 11, 2026

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, It is with deep sadness that this House has learned of the passing of Mary
2 Magavern Worrell. Ms. Worrell was born in Buffalo, New York, in 1942, and was the beloved
3 wife of Rick Worrell; and

4 WHEREAS, Mary Magavern Worrell was presented in 1960 at the 20th Century Club in
5 Buffalo and later graduated from The Buffalo Seminary. She studied at Bradford Junior College
6 for two years and spent one year studying at Reid Hall in Paris, a city she dearly loved, before she
7 graduated from Boston University in 1964; and

8 WHEREAS, Ms. Worrell married a close Dartmouth College friend of her two
9 Dartmouth brothers, and settled down in Providence, where she worked as a teacher at Classical
10 High School, and later, at the Lincoln School. In 1967, she and her husband undertook much of
11 the work as they restored and revitalized an old home in Providence's Fox Point Neighborhood
12 that had been boarded up since 1940; and

13 WHEREAS, Beginning in the 1970s, Ms. Worrell began her service and devotion to St.
14 Martin's Episcopal Church, where she served with love and dedication as the Volunteer Director
15 of its Sunday School, and later as its Senior Warden; and

16 WHEREAS, Thanks to her studies in Paris, Ms. Worrell developed a calling and desire to
17 work in the field of landscape architecture and embraced her belief that "the gentle hand of man
18 in nature" should be a guiding principle of the profession. Ms. Worrell commuted to the Radcliffe
19 Institute in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where, after much hard work and studying, earned the
20 designation of Registered Landscape Architect, all while caring devotedly for her family; and

1 WHEREAS, Ms. Worrell was a talented landscape architect who worked collaboratively
2 with many skilled craftspeople and clients to create enduring spaces of beauty and nature. In
3 2013, a book of Ms. Worrell's works was published with a special inscription to her
4 grandchildren. She also designed a second family home with many flower gardens and a
5 vegetable garden on a hill in rural Vermont near several ski resorts; and

6 WHEREAS, The Vermont home brought great joy to Ms. Worrell and her family as it
7 was surrounded by forests, fields, mountains, and a river, all of which instilled in her children and
8 grandchildren a deep love for nature, skiing and outdoor work; and

9 WHEREAS, In her free time, Ms. Worrell also enjoyed tennis, boating, skiing and
10 working long hours in her garden. She especially loved her boating sojourns out of Westport,
11 Cuttyhunk, the Vineyard, Buzzards Bay, Narragansett Bay and Block Island. She also enjoyed
12 playing tennis at the Clarksburg Club near Buffalo and with her Rhode Island tennis friends, and
13 was always up for a good game of Scrabble; and

14 WHEREAS, Ms. Worrell served with distinction on the Boards of the Swan Point
15 Cemetery and the Southside Community Land Trust (SCLT). She was the first woman to serve on
16 the Agawam Hunt's Board of Governors in 1984. She particularly enjoyed her time with the
17 SCLT, where she spent many hours working tirelessly to promote and sustain urban agriculture,
18 believing always in the power of community gardening and farming to empower and connect
19 people. Ms. Worrell was a woman who made wherever she resided and worked a better place.
20 She was always devoted to her family and her many friends, and she will be sorely missed by all
21 who knew and loved her; and

22 WHEREAS, Mary Magavern Worrell leaves behind her husband, Rick, her son, Jamie
23 and his wife, Kimberly, and her daughters Elizabeth Carroll and her husband, David, and Hope
24 Martin and her husband, Chip. She also leaves behind her nine grandchildren, and her sisters
25 Margy Hargraves, the wife of the late Skip Hargraves, and Jane Beebe and her husband, Spencer,
26 as well as many nieces, nephews and godchildren; now, therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
28 expresses its deepest condolences on the passing of Mary Magavern Worrell; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
30 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Mr. Rick Worrell and Family.

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